Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat, Klibi Discuss Joint Arab Action

LD1104222790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis. They discussed the need to take practical and effective Arab measures to consolidate joint Arab action and solidarity, to confront the serious challenges facing our nation as a result of Jewish immigration which constitutes a big danger and encourages the Israeli enemy to commit aggression.

Chedli Klibi Meets With Envoys on Iraq Issue

LD1104222890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The Arab League secretary general has begun large-scale diplomatic negotiations with ambassadors of the superpowers and those of UN Security Council permanent member-states in addition to EEC and African countries regarding the ferocious campaign against Iraq. He explained the Arab stance in support of Iraq.

In this connection Chedli Klibi received today ambassadors of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, China, the United States, and the charge d'affaires of Spain. Sources at the permanent secretariat stated that Mr. Klibi discussed with the U.S. ambassador in particular the efforts by the U.S. Administration and Congress aimed at defeating the 1971 UN General Assembly resolution that placed Zionism and racism on an equal footing. [passage omitted]

Arab Envoys Appeal to USSR Over Iraq

LD1104213990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Moscow, April 11 (KUNA)—The council of the Arab ambassadors here has called on the Soviet Union to strongly back the Arab states to counter the current media campaign against Iraq.

The council, in a statement circulated today, called for solidarity with Iraq against aggression, calling for the necessity to guarantee and respect all countries' rights, including Arab for seeking technical and scientific progress.

The Arab ambassadors expressed their countries' support for maintaining the Middle East an area empty of nuclear weapons, appealing to the international community to pressure Israel into joining the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty and to accept international supervision and guarantees on its nuclear installations.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat's Monthly Intifadah Message

JN1104210790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1804 GMT 11 Apr 90

["Text" of message by Yasir 'Arafat, "president of the state of Palestine," to Palestinians to mark the beginning of the 29th month of the intifadah; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: So lose not heart nor fall into despair, for you must gain mastery if you are true in faith. If a wound has touched you, be sure a similar wound has touched the others. Such days of varying fortunes we give to men and men by turns: That God may know those that believe and that he may take to himself from your ranks the martyr-witness to truth. And God loves not those that do wrong. [Koranic verses]

O brothers; O heroes of the blessed intifadah; O masses of our militant people in all positions of revolution and struggle; O masses of our great Arab nation: On the threshhold of the 30th month of the blessed intifadah, we advance with our revolution and intifadah, with unwavering, confident, honest steps—relying in this on a unique militant heritage. We advance with great hope ahead of us, and our knowledge of the details and causes of events guides our steps. Therefore, we advance with vigilance and awareness on the path of liberation toward the defeat of the occupation, being guided by national unity and the militant slogan to which we rally; namely, intifadah until the end of occupation and the departure of the last soldier from our territory and our holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state.

As [words indistinct] of the months of our intifadah in which we are staging our intifadah and demonstrating loyalty to our righteous martyrs and commitment to their chaste souls. We remember the hero martyr 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni, the greatest of all martyrs and the hero of the al-Qastal battle; we remember the martyrs of the Dayr Yasin massacre as a lesson in our conscience and a mark of disgrace on the face and in the history of the enemy; we remember the Verdun martyrs, the three leaders, the heroic martyrs Kamal 'Udwan, Kamal Nasir, and Abu-Yusuf al-Najjar [Kamal Yusuf]; we remember the beloved martyr Abu-al-Walid, Sa'd Sayil; we remember the beloved one, the prince of martyrs—the first bullet and stones—my brother and companion, the hero martyr Abu-Jihad. God has chosen him together with the righteous ones, the beloved martyrs on His side with the prophets. Is this not the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of Badr, in which the Koran was revealed as a guide to people? It is the month of martyrdom and sacrifice; it is the month of martyrs whose blood will not be shed in vain. Greetings of loyalty to the anniversary of our righteous martyrs and all martyrs. And martyrs are the most generous of us all.

O brothers, O beloved ones: On this blessed month, we continue to escalate every intifadah activity and carry

them out with more cohesion, solidarity, organization, and unity. Organization is the basis of the intifadah and its militant course. On this basis the decisions of the Unified National Leadership form the path followed by all the people. In addition, there is the integration of the popular committees, the specialized committees, the strike forces and the cohesion of the instrument, the leadership, and masses of the intifadah, which is crowned by the unity of the people, all people—children, women, men, students, workers, peasants, employees, traders, academics, landlords, all sectors of people, all factions of the revolution—Fatah, Hamas, the Communists, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Jihad, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Arab Liberation Front, and the Popular Struggle Front. All are united in one strong unity on whose rock the Shamir government was destroyed for the first time in Israel. Every Israeli Government that does not recognize our existence and legitimate right to self-determination and to establish the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will be destroyed on the rock of our unity.

Beloved ones and strugglers in all areas of the intifadah, the revolution, and struggle: We extend a greeting of loyalty to our captives, detainees, and those injured this month on the occasion of the day of the detainee. A greeting to those who have withstood and are still withstanding the schemes of the enemy; a greeting to those who are transforming their places of captivity and detention into institutions of struggle from which strugglers graduate stronger and with better awareness and thus deserve the pride of our giant people.

Brothers, sons of our people in the homeland and in the diaspora: Namibia has gained independence. The Palestine delegation attended the lowering of the flag of occupation and shared the Namibian people's happiness in raising the flag of independence. The Namibian struggler president and his people have asked me to convey greetings of struggle and friendship to every Palestinian of our people. In your name, I greet the friendly people of Namibia and its struggler president; I greet the independence of Namibia, which constitutes a model of liberation and independence for our people. Prior to that, there was a meeting with the renowned struggler and friend Nelson Mandela in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, in the presence of friend and struggler President Kenneth Kaunda. Mandela has emphasized the similar character of the joint struggle of our peoples.

I hereby address a special greeting to all our captives and detainees who are fighting a unique enemy in unusual circumstances. This enemy, moreover, is collaborating, in a strong and integrated manner, with the racist government of South Africa. Following that, there was a meeting in New Delhi and Calcutta—a meeting with their friendly people, with Nehru's award for our people and heroes to reaffirm the friendship of a great and friendly people with our just cause, on all levels and in all forums and situations. Then came the Land Day anniversary—a great celebration in which all the peoples of your Arab and friendly nation, beloved ones, celebrated with you. It was an occasion for the Arab knight Saddam Husayn to assert Iraq's commitment to the causes of the Arab nation, primarily the Palestine question. He has taught us an important lesson from the long years of war, from the eastern part to the occupied lands: The raging battle is a sure sign of striking the enemy's defensive lines and the approach of the goal.

It was an occasion for the stone to melt and grow bigger, and the al-'Abid missile was presented as a gift from Saddam Husayn, his Army, and people to the struggling people of Palestine. A greeting to the knight President Saddam Husayn, Iraq's Army and its friendly people. Israel has lost its temper and has begun to use the threat of its military arsenal, including its atomic, chemical, and conventional weapons. It has also launched a satellite to spy on Arab territory. Following that, Zionist horns and the sounding boards of its allies began to resonate in a suspicious and poisonous campaign threatening Iraq and the Arab states. The Iraqi answer was firm, telling Israel that it did not have a monopoly on the military option. We say to Israel that all its threats and arsenals will not intimidate us. Neither will they frighten the Palestinian child who holds his stone with one hand and his flag in the other, to raise it over the walls of Palestine, the minarets and churches of Jerusalem. They see this as far away, but we see it as near, and we are telling the truth.

During this period, there was also the meeting with our friend President Mitterrand and former U.S. President Carter at the Elysee in Paris, and the meeting with His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who considers the Palestinian peoples' cause his own. There was also a meeting with Italian President Cossiga, the parties, organizations, and unions, as well as the masses of the friendly people of Italy. Then came the meeting in Rabat with His Majesty King Hasan II, king of Morocco, who hosted the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which was mandated by Islamic summit. This meeting resulted in important decisions and a clear, strong statement on Jewish emigration to the Palestinian Arab territories and its imminent dangers that not only threaten Palestine but also the Arab and Islamic nations.

In these days in particular, the region's atmosphere smells of gunpowder and the sound of saber-rattling can be heard. This threatens a great explosion, whose damage will not be confined to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation but will affect all of the region, and whose impact will reach the whole world. We tell Israel at this moment that we offer it peace, the peace of the brave and not the peace of capitulators or the weak. Ever since our steadfastness in Beirut in 1982, the era of blitzkriegs in which Israel won sudden victories has gone for ever and will never return. Aggression will not result in victory and a few days will not decide the issue.

These days, which are charged with the escalation of missiles, and with nuclear, atomic, and chemical weapons—indeed, because the situation is as it is—we tell Israel that a secure future for all has only one key, the key of peace and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights; recognition of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is the key of implementing internationally legitimate resolutions, which recognize our right to independence and the establishment of our Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The alternative to the destructive explosion that you in Israel are preparing for the region, is well-known and well-presented. It is the Palestinian peace initiative, which our Palestine National Council approved and which was accepted by all nations in the world except the Israeli rulers, who are being encouraged by unlimited U.S. support and assistance. This support encourages and leads to explosion and destruction. This Israeli intransigence is leading to explosion and destruction. The Palestinian peace initiative and all international and regional peace initiatives lead to peace and a secure future for our children and your children, for our generations and your generations.

Beloved brothers, let us be prepared for all eventualities with more organization and commitment and with every kind of escalation of various intifadah activities. I recommend unity and cooperation, love, brotherhood, and fraternity. Let us encourage the reconciliation committees to intensify their work to solve the problems of the people in the spirit of love, amity, and sincerity. Let the strike forces everywhere be prepared for confrontations and challenges. Let us concentrate on popular and scientific education and keeping the schools open, and regulating action. Let us have patience and stamina. We will not have them without this organization, this self-control, this unity, and a continuous life without inflexibility, exaggeration, or hypocrisy.

Brothers and beloved ones. Greetings to each child, man, and woman. Greetings to each of the wounded strugglers, greetings to each detainee and prisoner in enemy jails who rises above their jailers. Glory and immortality to our pious martyrs. Our pledge to Abu-Jihad will continue, our oath is the same. The revolution will continue and the intifadah will continue until victory, until statehood. Statehood is only a stone's-throw away.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom he will, and he is exalted in might, most merciful. It is the promise of God. Never does God depart from his promise. But most men understood not. [Koranic verses]

I squeeze your hands. It is a revolution until victory.

Hamas Views PNC Formation, Urges Jihad

JN0904094690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Apr 90 p 11

[Text of a memorandum from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to Palestine National Council speaker 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih on 6 April; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], respected brother members of the preparatory committee: May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

We in the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas appreciate your kind invitation to us to participate in the work of the preparatory committee in charge of reformulating the PNC, which will begin its meetings on Saturday 12 Ramadan 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 7 April 1990—an invitation extended to Hamas in its capacity as one of the active, influential Palestinian forces leading the blessed intifadah and confronting the Jewish occupation and its repressive tool, something which prompted our Palestinian people to rally around their movement Hamas in splendid militant cohesion baptized by blood and consecrated through sacrifices.

While apologizing for not participating in the abovementioned committee for a number of circumstances and considerations, we beseech God to grant you success in adhering to our people's rights and constants for which they have made sacrifices throughout the past years.

On this occasion, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas stresses that it supports the unity of our people—with all their inclinations and forces—on plain and clear bases and constants without relinquishment or concessions. Therefore, our movement presents to you its concepts of the bases governing the formation of the PNC in the coming stage.

His eminence the PNC speaker, brother members of the preparatory committee: The past formation of the PNC came as a result of a number of factors and political circumstances experienced by our people during the first years of their national awakening after the 1948 dispersal. There is no doubt that as a result of changed circumstances and facts, the next PNC should be the outcome of the circumstances of the current stage—the stage of the blessed intifadah and what it consecrated in terms of concrete facts, orientations, and both popular and political forces. Our valiant intifadah stressed that with God's help our heroic Palestinian people are capable of confronting, shaking, and destabilizing occupation and are determined to wrench their inalienable rights. The intifadah has also proved the organic cohesion among all trends and forces of our people.

His eminence the PNC speaker, brother members of the preparatory committee: The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas believes that the following points should be taken into consideration when a new PNC is formed:

1. Election and not appointment should be the basic method to choose the PNC members. Elections should take place according to regions and in proportional percentages.

2. If elections are impossible, representation should then reflect the weight of the political forces in the arena by making numbers correspond to sizes.

3. The selection of independents should take place according to the results of elections. If elections are not possible, their numbers and names should be determined through the agreement of all active forces in the Palestinian arena.

4. For political, administrative, security, and financial considerations, it is preferable to reduce the number of the PNC members and reconsider the PLO central Council and its role.

5. The Palestinian National Charter should be amended in harmony with the Palestinian Muslim people's creed and genuine heritage.

His eminence the PNC speaker, brother members of the preparatory committee: The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas stresses the importance of national unity at this decisive stage in our people's jihad. Therefore, we in Hamas open our hearts and extend our hands for coordination with all Palestinian forces, bodies, and institutions for the welfare of our people and cause. In harmony with Hamas' firm position toward this issue and in response to the calls for Hamas' participation in the PNC made by PNC speaker his eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and by some Palestinian forces and independent personalities, Hamas emphasizes that it will deal positively with the issue of participating in the PNC once the following constants, principles, and considerations are taken into consideration and approved:

1. To consider Palestine from the sea to the river, and from the Negev to Ra's al-Naqurah, an indivisible whole to which the Palestinian people have a rightful claim.

2. To refuse to relinquish any part of Palestinian territory, refuse to consider the Jewish entity a legitimate and recognized entity under any circumstances whatsoever, and reject all the UN resolutions which undermine our people's right to their entire territory—including Resolutions 181, 242, and 338.

3. To emphasize the military option and consider jihad the correct way to liberate Palestine and obtain independence.

4. To consider the issue of Palestine the issue of the entire Arab and Islamic nation, which should provide the requirements and shoulder its role toward liberation.

5. To emphasize the importance of continuing, developing, and escalating the intifadah and bolstering our people's steadfastness in confronting occupation.

6. To represent Hamas in the PNC with a number equal to its weight in the arena, which ranges between 40-50 percent of the total number of the PNC members.

7. To give Hamas the right to be represented in all the PLO's institutions and organs in a manner commensurate with its size and impact.

8. To retract all concessions and recognitions conflicting with our rights and our people's aspirations and sacrifices, the latest of which were the resolutions of the 19th [PNC] session in Algiers in November 1988, and all subsequent concessions.

9. To take the five points mentioned earlier into consideration when a PNC is formed.

These constants and conditions are not a new proposal by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and are not meant to make things appear impossible. These are the principles for whose consecration and defense our movement was established.

His eminence the PNC speaker, brother members of the preparatory committee: While presenting to you our concepts of the way to restructure the PNC and our conditions for participation in the PLO, we emphasize our readiness to sincerely cooperate with all active Palestinan forces regardless of their ideology or affiliation, wishing you success. God stand witness to our good intentions. May God preserve the unity of our people and nation. And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the Believers. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine Hamas, 6 April 1990

PNC Turns Down Hamas' Demands, Seeks Dialogue

JN1004115190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 90 p 1

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah, "special" to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—A Palestine National Council (PNC) committee entrusted with revising membership of the council ended a three-day meeting in Amman Monday [9 April] by turning down demands by Hamas, a Muslim fundamentalist group operating inside the occupied territories.

Hamas had demanded that it should acquire 40 per cent of the PNC's total number of seats as one of several conditions for agreeing to fall in line with the mainstream Palestinian leadership.

PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said the 20 member committee, urged Hamas to join the PNC and reaffirmed the need for maintaining unity within the council.

Hamas had sent a memorandum to the Amman meeting demanding two fifths of the seats to represent what it called as its real strength in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih who chaired the meetings here, said the committee, which represented various Palestinian groups, stressed the need for the continuation of the uprising inside the occupied territories unitl victory is achieved and until the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people have been met.

Al-Sa'ih called on Hamas to join the PNC and the unified leadership of the uprising and said that the committee was willing to reach understanding with Hamas.

Hamas was also reported to have told the committee that it would join the council if the latter abandoned the peace strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

At its last session held in Algiers in 1988, the PNC declared an independent Palestinian state that would co-exist with Israel.

Hamas violently opposes any accommodation with Israel and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's two state proposals to reach a settlement with Israel.

Al-Sa'ih noted that the next session of the PNC will group 350 to 400 members who represent all factions as well as the Palestine Liberation Army and Palestinian commandos.

In its statement Monday, the committee called for continued dialogue with Hamas to involve it in the council, which, it said, will be composed in a manner that would deal with the present developments and changes in the Palestinian arena and would work towards enabling the Palestinians [to] regain their rights and establish their own independent state on Palestine soil.

The committee members demanded that the PNC should be authorised to draw up the PLO's general strategies and that the council be empowered to maintain supervision and control over all PLO operations. The committee also called for the creation of a control group grouping PNC members to be empowered with full authority to control PLO's institutions and their operations.

Details From PNC Session

JN0904092990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Apr 90 pp 22, 18

[Excerpt] Amman—The committee for reshaping the Palestine National Council [PNC] continued its meeting at the Jerusalem Hotel last night under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker and chairman of the committee. A prominent member of the committee said that during the meeting the conferees discussed the basis and basic principles to organize the formation of the PNC and the way to achieve large-scale and comprehensive representation of the Palestinian groupings and popular federations. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, the committee member said that there are no differences over membership of representatives from the occupied territory in the PNC, noting that the names will remain secret to protect those representatives from the Zionist occupation authorities' brutal and repressive measures.

The committee member said in an answer to a question that the committee discussed in detail the number of the PNC members which is 452. He added that there is a tendency within the committee to reduce the number to 350 to 400 members.

The committee member said: The committee also discussed the memorandum of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, containing its conditions for joining the PNC. He said the committee did not make any recommendations or decisions regarding this memo.

A Palestinian official participating in the meetings of the preparatory committee for convening the PNC, ruled out the possibility of convening a session this year. He said the PNC will hold its 20th session in one of two events: if a formula for an agreement on peace steps with the Israeli side is reached or if the peace process is obstructed. The PNC should then adopt resolutions that are in harmony with the nature of the present stage. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee Member Condemns U.S.

PM1004140690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] The U.S. Congress resolution which considers Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel reveals the identical U.S. and Israeli aims and orientations. It also reveals the truth about the declared claims, especially with regard to the aspect concerning the Palestinian issue and the occupied territories' future. That position can only be in response to, and consistent with, the Zionists' ambitions. It casts shadows of doubt on U.S. credibility, especially when it comes to the Palestinian question and the Arab nation's causes.

This was PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad's answer to a question about the U.S. Congress resolution issued in Washington, which considered Jerusalem the permanent capital of the Israeli entity. He added that the resolution is similar to the Israeli Knesset resolution, since it constitutes a blatant defiance of international laws and conventions. It conflicts totally with the international community's resolutions, represented by the UN resolution. It is a new factor of tension and a blow to the peace efforts which Washington claims to want. It affects our Palestinian

people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on our national soil.

In a clear and planned agreement, it was followed by the Zionist Knesset's resolution, which considers Jerusalem the permanent and final capital of Israel, and considers the Golan an inseparable part of the enemy's entity. It reaffirms the Zionist leaders' true intentions of controlling Arab territory. It destroys some people's wagers on certain changes in the Zionist position.

While we strongly reject the two resolutions, we call on our glorious Arab nation—governments, parties, and masses—to take tangible practical steps to confront these resolutions and destroy their substance.

The establishment of a real influential Arab solidarity to confront the dangers surrounding pan-Arab security as a result of these measures and the other measures hostile to the Arab nation is a pressing and fundamental necessity, the objective being to awaken the Arab position so as to match current and potential challenges.

We also call on the community to regard these measures as null and void and illegal. We affirm that our only response to this is to step up our national struggle and our valiant intifadah, which is the essential way to thwart the enemy's schemes and the plans which Washington and Tel Aviv are making to the detriment of our cause and our people's rights. Our children's stones will remain our Palestinian response, which guarantees the thwarting of the designs and conspiracies being hatched against our causes.

Fatah's Hani Al-Hasan on 'Arafat-Carter Talks

PM1104110290 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 6 Apr 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by Sa'd Mabruk in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan—who, together with poet Mahmud Darwish, Ibrahim al-Sus, and Bassam Abu-Sharif, attended the two-hour meeting held the evening before last between President Yasir 'Arafat and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter—has emphasized that the choice of Paris as the venue for the meeting reflected the Palestinians' belief in the importance of Europe's role.

In his interview with AL-MADINAH in Paris Hani al-Hasan added that the Palestinians welcome Europe's role in reactivating the peace process in the Middle East, especially the French role, via the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council.

Hani al-Hasan told AL-MADINAH that there have been attempts to eliminate Europe from the peace process, especially in the early stages. He added: It is clear that we Palestinians and French have long realized the Israeli position's responsibility for delaying the peace process. The Israeli and U.S. positions are responsible for Europe's elimination from the peace process. But I think that the meeting held the night before last between President Mitterrand, 'Arafat, and Carter was important with regard to discussing practical ways of convening an international conference in which the five permanent member states would participate in order to reactivate the peace process. He also said: It was natural for the French to devote attention to the meeting and to hold another meeting of the three presidents. Undoubtedly the meeting will result in a kind of dialogue and new ideas. We of the PLO expect an important stance to result from it.

Asked by AL-MADINAH whether there was a specific proposal concerning the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel which the PLO wanted Carter to convey to President Bush and the U.S. Administration in the light of his meeting with 'Arafat, Hani al-Hasan said: As far as we are concerned, the emigration is a major issue and is on our agenda, but the meeting with Carter was a friendly one, not an official meeting with a detailed agenda. It is a pressure factor more than a meeting for the peace process.

Regarding how the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories was featured at the talks, Hani al-Hasan told AL-MADINAH that the Palestinian issue has three dimensions: the intrinsic factors, the local factor, and the international factor. Without the intrinsic factor—the intifadah—any political moves would be worthless. So the intifadah is the basis, and we are making moves at the international level to seek backing for the intifadah. We, the Fatah Central Committee member said, will not agree to discuss with anyone the question of lessening the sharpness of the intifadah's thrust. The intifadah will only stop when we agree on a comprehensive political solution based on the right to self-determination and to establish the Palestinian state.

In his interview with AL-MADINAH, Hani al-Hasan said that the meeting with Carter lies within the framework of Carter's first tour of some capitals in the region. The meeting was originally scheduled for 20 March, but President 'Arafat had to attend the Namibian independence celebrations; so another date had to be set. Al-Hasan stressed that the Arab parties' views are in agreement, the Arab position is united, and Carter heard a single position stemming from the resolutions adopted at last year's Arab summit in Casablanca.

We expect, Hani al-Hasan said, President Carter to honestly convey our views to the U.S. Administration. It does not matter that he is not an official representative of the U.S. Administration, because he is a credible man who has profound political and moral values and is committed to a neutral role in his moves concerning the Palestinian issue, as was the case with regard to the African issues.

The importance of the dialogue with Carter, al-Hasan added, lies in the fact that the objective is to come out

with ideas, which is why we have no specific agenda. The meeting was a general round of talks to discuss the issue and come out with new ideas. Hani al-Hasan emphasized that the Middle East issue does not lack ideas at the moment, but, rather, lacks fair pressure on all parties.

Hani al-Hasan expressed his hope that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter would embark on a new tour of all the Arab countries in order to convey to the U.S. public the truth about the Arab positions—Palestinian, Jordanian, Iraqi, or others.

'Arafat To Visit CSFR in 'Next Few Days'

JN1004152890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif said in Tunis today that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will pay an official visit to Czechoslovakia within the next few days. In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement saying that the front's secretary general, Nayif Hawatimah, left Damascus for Moscow today on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Leaders.

Egypt

Mediation Efforts To Begin Between Iraq, Syria

JN1104173090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Egypt will begin—within the next few hours—a series of intensive contacts with the United States and Britain to ease the current tension with Iraq. During his meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, President Husni Mubarak proposed that Egypt intervene to stop the British and American campaign against Iraq and end the current tension in the Middle East.

AL-WAFD has learned that President Mubarak affirmed to the Iraqi president Egypt's full readiness to intervene and support Iraq militarily in defense of its territory if it is subject to Israeli aggression. Presidents Mubarak and Saddam also discussed current Egyptian contacts to clear the atmosphere in Syrian-Iraqi relations and the possibility of not making an issue of previous Syrian stands that were hostile to Iraq and the Arab states in the Gulf war. Presidents Mubarak and Saddam also agreed on continuing contacts between Cairo and Baghdad to follow up on developments and inform Iraq of the results of Egyptian contacts with Britain and the United States.

President Mubarak's contacts with King Husayn in Amman concentrated on the need to intensify Egyptian-Jordanian efforts to open channels for direct contacts between Damascus and Baghdad, on developments on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, and on the current arrangements to hold the proposed emergency Arab summit in Cairo, Amman, or Riyadh in May.

Saudi Petroleum Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1104153890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Hisham Nazir, Saudi petroleum and mineral resources minister, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for an official visit to Egypt expected to last several days.

He stated that he is carrying a message dealing with recent Middle East developments from His Majesty King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, petroleum and mineral resources minister, received the Saudi minister on his arrival.

Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC1104193890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. Hisham Nazir, Saudi petroleum and mineral resources minister, delivered the message during his meeting with President Mubarak this evening.

'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and Saudi Ambassador As'ad Abu-al-Nasr also attended the meeting.

Libya

Chadian Charge Summoned Over 'Media Campaign'

LD1104190290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1747 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today summoned the charge d'affaires of the Chadian Embassay to the Great Jamahiriyah, and informed him of the Libyan Arab people's condemnation of the political and media campaign that is being conducted these days by Chadian Government officials against the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Chadian charge d'affaires was informed that this campaign and the false accusations do not serve the interests of the Libyan and Chadian peoples. It was also stressed to him that the historical and fraternal relations between the two countries will remain too strong to be affected by intrigue and by the spirit of discord.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Bush Remarks on Soviet Jews

LD1104203390 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 11, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The leader of the revolution said "The U.S. President said yesterday that the greatest freedom march is the exodus of Soviet Jews into occupied Arab Palestine".

The leader asked "[words indistinct] the U.S. President say that such exodus was deportation for the Palestine Arab people which was expelled from its home, and that was the biggest deportation process witnessed by the contemporary history...Also it is the biggest process of deprivation and tyranny the history witnesses...facing such crime we see the U.S. President reversing the truth...and he says this operation is the greatest march of freedom the history is witnessing...which is the march of Jews from the Soviet Union into Arab Palestine...."

Addressing the students of the sports education at al-Fatih University last night, the leader asserted that what was right is the greatest march of history, the Jamahiri march which has overwhelmed Eastern Europe and will overwhelm Western Europe and America.

He pointed out that this the greatest march which the Green Book is advocating—the masses march towards power, towards wealth and towards weapons...it is the final salvation for mankind's problems and humanity will possess everything in his hand. [passage as received]

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Sports Education Group

LD1104201790 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 11, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the leader of the great al-Fatah revolution asserted the era of the masses is knocking on all doors and no one can stand in the face of the masses, which wants to take everything especially that parties, dictatorship, the vanguards. [sentence as received] Religious parties and the tyrants had all fallen. Even the colonial-Zionist grip in the West Bank is shaking now in front of the masses' blows and anger.

During his meeting with the students of the sports education department at al-Fatih university complex, he said "the masses are like the sweeping torrent, because this is their era and rulers, kings and presidents currently in existence either falter the masses or they will not stay, despite they used yesterday to suppress the masses and practice tyranny against them". [sentence as received] He pointed out that those who were yesterday trying to form a secret party in order to rule the masses, they have no hope now in doing that after the efforts of tens of parties were amassed in one state to reach a result in the elections, but they did not arrive to any result in the elections, which made them repeat that, as a child's game, as what happened in Greece.

The leader pointed out in this respect that no one could achieve majority in Hungary, and the best party achieve the highest percentage of 25—a quarter of the votes—while the others achieve less than such result.

The leader asked "How can we call such result as majority?" And there can be no government coming to rule the other 3 quarters. So they continue repeating them once again. He asserted that who ever formed a vanguard party or a revolutionary party can not rule the masses. Also who ever formed a religious group which plays on the sensitive chord and deceives people coming to them from from the spiritual side is bound to fail. Because it is not an era in which rule can be achieved in the name of vanguard, sect or denominations. He asserted that there was no space for such denominations and sects except the people's congresses which enabled the people with their various denominations to say and decide anything and formulate it in a paper and form for it a people's committee to carry it out.

The leader indicated the world is living today the farce of the party struggle for power, for a group of parties had been formed in every state as a step on the road to the basic people's congresses despite them knowing that. He pointed out that the Green Book has not arrived to them yet and they were still considering the Jamahiri theory as a new theory to them and if they knew that there is a new formula by the name of people's congresses and people's committees they would have left the parties and changed into the Jamahiri regime.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Holds Ceremony To Swear In Ministers

EA1104180990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum 11 Apr (SUNA)—The following gentlemen swore the oath of allegiance before Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and prime minister, this morning:

NSRCC Member Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman as governor of the central region al-Badri;

NSRCC Member Air Force Staff Colonel Faysal Madani as governor of Kurdufan region;

Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin as minister of culture and information;

Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Hamdi as minister of finance and economic planning;

Mr. 'Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad as minister of education and instruction;

Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih as minister of public works and housing.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Mr. Jalal Ali Lutfi, the chief justice; Staff Lieutenant Colonel al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad, the Minister of presidential affairs; and Staff Colonel Abd al-Muhammad Mahmud, the secretary general of the NSRCC.

After the ceremony, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir met the new governors and minsters. He congratulated them on their new appointments and wished them success and rectitude in the performance of their duties. He thanked them for agreeing to accept these appointments at this stage, which he described as requiring the amalgamation of all efforts and unity of ranks.

Following the joint meeting of the NSRCC and the council of ministers, Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, the minister of culture and information and the government's official spokesman, said that Lt. Gen. 'Umar had praised the former ministers.

He said they had worked making every effort and with loyalty, sacrifice, and self-denial. He said the talents of the former ministers would continue to be deployed by the revolution in other posts.

The official spokesman said Lt. Gen. 'Umar had said that with the passage of time the revolution had found it necessary to make some ministerial changes, expressing the hope that with its new format the Council of Ministers would administer the country successfully.

More on New Officials

EA1104205990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Apr (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, General 'Umar al-Bashir decreed Tuesday the relief of culture and information minister, 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, finance minister Dr. Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, Education Minister Mahjub al-Badawi, and Housing Minister Maj. Gen. ret. Muhammad al-Hadi Ma'mun al-Mardi.

According to the decree, Central Region's Governor Maj. Gen. 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Ra'uf and Kurdufan region's governor Maj. Gen. Awadallah Muhammad were also fired from their posts, and nominated as the director of the national economic corporation and chairman of the board of directors of the public corporation for insurance, respectively.

The decree stipulated the nomination of the Revolution Command Council members Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman as the Central Region's governor and Colonel Faysal Madani as Kurdufan region's governor.

The portfolio of culture and infor nation went to Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, while the minister of finance was replaced by 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, and 'Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad assumed the portfolio of education and Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih the Ministry of Housing.

The decree relieved Maj-Gen al-Nur 'Abd al-Nur as the director of the national economic corporation and Dr. Bashir al-Bakri as the chairman of the board of directors of the public corporation for insurance and Muhammad al-Sayyid 'Abd al-Da'im as Kurdufan deputy governor.

Maj. Gen. ret. Muhammad al-Hadi Ma'mun al-Mardi who was relieved as housing minister was nominated as the premier's political advisor.

Defendents Involved in 'Coup Attempt' Investigated

PM1104111490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 90 p 1

[Kamal Hamid report: "Sudanese Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Secret Trials for 35 Detained in Coup Attempt Case"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—An authoritative government source has announced the start of investigations into 35 defendants involved in the coup attempt which the Sudanese security organs thwarted at the end of March.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that procedures are still at the stage of inquiries and processing legal data. The investigations are being conducted by the security organs, the military judiciary, and the National Salvation Revolution Command Council's Security and Operations Committee.

The source pointed out that all foreign media reports about secret trials of the defendants are mere rumors. Some media services, he added, tend to exaggerate the number of those detained pending inquiries, affirming that the number does not exceed 35 civilians and soldiers.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the detainees are not all from one political organization. Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, former finance minister and a prominent Ummah Party leader, denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Ummah Party could have been involved in the coup attempt.

The detainees from the Ummah Party include Major General Fadlallah Nasir (retired); 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah; Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sadiq al-Mahdi (retired), son of the former prime minister; and Hasab-al-Rasul al-Nur, who was the Ummah party's military official before former President Numayri was toppled.

The detainees include soldiers and civilians not affiliated with the Ummah Party but close to the Democratic Unionist Party. These include Major General Muhammad 'Ali Hamid and a lawyer, al-Tayyib Muhammad al-Tayyib.

Upper Nile Supervisor Yukwan Arrives in Malakal

EA1004213890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Brigadier General Pio Yukwan, member of the Revolution Command Council and political supervisor of the Upper Nile region, this morning arrived in Malakal on a visit to the region. Immediately upon arrival, his excellency met officials in the region and acquainted himself with the security situation in the region and conditions of the citizens.

Furthermore, the governor of the region declared that security was stable and that the Armed Forces were in control of the reins of power. Brig. Gen. Pio Yukwan will witness the taking of the oath by the chairman and members of the popular committees for salvation in the region.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Declares Solidarity With Iraq

JN1104193990 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 Apr 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Kuwait's Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has declared that any aggression on Iraq is an "aggression against all the Arab nation and every Arab individual."

Speaking in an interview with weekly AL-YAQAZAH published in this week's edition, Shaykh Nawwaf said Iraq has the right to "practice its full sovereignty over Iraqi lands and block mobilisation of evil and aggressive forces against its territory."

"If Iraq had to act to support this right (of self defence) and to emphasise the principle of national sovereignty, then this is not a matter that should be viewed as a violation of the rights of others," Shaykh Nawwaf told the magazine.

Shaykh Nawwaf said "Kuwait's army is an army for the whole Arab nation and is ready for sacrifice to confront any aggression targetting any Arab land."

Kuwait's army, he added, "is prepared to move to any place in the Arab world to perform its national duty as it has done in confronting aggression by the Zionists on Egypt and Syria."

The strongly-worded statements by the defence minister followed an official statement by the Foreign Ministry in which it said Kuwait sides with Iraq against a Western media campaign designed to turn world public opinion against Iraqi legitimate rights to build up defensive weapons. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Soviet Deputy Petroleum Minister Arrives 29 Mar

EA0104150290 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] (?Boris Nikitin), the Soviet first deputy minister of the petroleum industry, arrived in Aden at the head of a delegation this evening to attend the third meeting of the Yemeni-Soviet subcommittee on oil.

(?Nikitin) told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that the USSR had fulfilled its oil extraction commitments in the past year. He said experimental operations in the Iyad al-Gharb oil field had begun. He said the subcommittee's next session would examine the positive results achieved by the oil industry leading to the construction of prime installations for the extraction of oil, as well as the prospects for future development in both Iyad al-Gharb and Iyad al-Sharq. He pointed out geological exploration had revealed promising indicators for the extraction of oil in our country. He said the laying of the pipeline in the mainland had been completed. A pipeline now was being extended to the experimental area.

Brother Abduh Rajih, deputy minister of energy and minerals, and a number of ministry officials received the delegation on arrival.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister on Restrictions on Pilgrims

LD1104115490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0818 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, April 11 (KUNA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said last night the Saudi authorities will keep in place restrictions on the number of pilgrims expected to flood the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah during this summer's Islamic Hajj season.

Prince Nayif said that the circumstances that led to the introduction of restrictions two years ago, continued to exist and warrant such measures.

The Saudi top official called on all citizens and expatriates to give the chance for their Muslim brothern who have not performed the religious duty and called on them to follow regulations and help preserve public order.

The quote system, allowing each country to send 1,000 pilgrims per million introduced in 1988 and approved by the Organization of Islamic Conference.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Jordanian Envoy, Husayn Message

JN1104222290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received an oral message from King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan dealing with the Arab state of affairs in light of current developments. The message is part of the continuing consultations and coordination between the two leaders. Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court and envoy of the Jordanian monarch, conveyed the message during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid tonight. Shaykh Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the presidential court, and Khamis Biti al-Rumaythi, head of the president's office, attended.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Meets With UAE's Shaykh Zayid, Returns

JN1104144090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress,

paid a short working visit yesterday to the fraternal United Arab Emirates [UAE], during which he met with his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Shaykh Zayid held brotherly talks on the two countries' fraternal and distinguished relations, means of enhancing them, and developing brotherly cooperation between the two countries in the service of the two fraternal peoples and the higher objectives of our Arab nation. They also discussed developments in the Arab arena and issues of interest to our Arab nation, mainly the challenges currently facing the nation, primarily, the Zionist challenge. The two leaders emphasized the importance of pooling Arab efforts in the Arab nation's current circumstances and mobilizing all energies to achieve Arab solidarity, enhance joint Arab action, and unify Arab policies so the Arab nation can face its enemies and foil all their schemes and conspiracies to hinder the Arab nation's advancement in scientific progress and in the awakening of its civilization.

They also emphasized the need to maintain support for the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people to enable them regain their usurped rights and establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, stressed support for any Arab country whose security and sovereignty are subject to aggression.

Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan at 1800 yesterday conducted a session of brotherly talks. At the outset, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan expressed his happiness about the visit and welcomed the brother president secretary general, voicing his deep satisfaction and happiness at the positive developments in Yemen toward reunification of the Yemeni homeland. He said Yemeni unity is a source of pride for all sons of the Arab nation eager for the unity of the Arab homeland. He added unity is the path leading the nation to pride, strength, and progress. He reiterated the support and blessing of the UAE leadership, government, and people, for the unionist endeavors in Yemen, explaining the reunification of Yemen serves the peace, security, and stability of the region, and, at the same time, constitutes an element of strength for pan-Arab security.

For his part, the brother leader president secretary general expressed his appreciation for the genuine, brotherly pan-Arab policies of the UAE and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, saying that the UAE—leadership, government, and people—occupy a special position in the hearts of the Yemeni people. He noted the continuing development in their fraternal relations, explaining that they are close and distinguished relations based on solid foundations of affection, understanding, and fruitful brotherly cooperation.

The following attended the session: brothers Dr. Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and General Committee member; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member; Dr. Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr. Nasir al-'Awlaki, minister of agriculture and fisheries; Muhammad al-Khalidi, the secretary of the president of the Republic; and Ahmad al-Radwi, secretary general of the Republic's Presidency. His Highness [first name indistinct] Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, president of Shaykh Zayid's court; Nasir Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Ali Hamad al-Shatta, director of the president of the state's court; and Khalifah [name indistinct], director of Shaykh Zayid's office, represented UAE at the session.

Following the joint talks, the two leaders conducted a closed session for about an hour, during which they discussed issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and our Arab nation. The brother president leader secretary general returned to Sanaa yesterday evening. Leading those seeing him off were His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan and UAE senior officials.

North, South Yemen Unity Efforts 'Intensive'

LD1104142590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1355 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] London, April 11 (KUNA)—Interior Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic Dr. 'Abdallah Barakat Wednesday said intensive efforts are under way in North and South Yemen with the aim of declaring their unity on November 30 this year.

In an interview with KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, Barakat said these efforts are on the measures leading to unity of laws and regulations in every ministry or establishment in both sectors of Yemen, and disclosed that many steps have been completed regarding the structure of the united state of Yemen.

He added that political, economic and military committees have nearly completed their assignments of working out draft laws that are based on the draft constitution of the united Yemen.

Dr. Barakat who is currently here to take part in the ministerial conference on fighting narcotics, said the capital of the united Yemen would be Sana and the government meetings would be held alternately in Sana and Aden.

He further disclosed that an important meeting for governments of the two Yemens would convene in Sana next May to study the achievements realized by that time and take resolutions. He added that the referendum on the new constitution would be held next June after being approved by the parliaments in the two countries. On the conference he is taking part in, Barakat called for increasing the international cooperation to fight drugs.

Source Denies Alleged 'Heavy Weapons' Transfer

JN1104204090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr 9 (INA)—A responsible Iraqi source commented on a report carried by London BBC television during its newscast this evening. The report says customs officers at the port of Teeside in northeastern England have seized a quantity of heavy weapons aboard a ship whose destination was Iraq. The station claimed the uncovered heavy weapons included 40-ft-long cannons.

The Iraqi source denied this allegation and described it as baseless and sheer lies that are part of the frenzied campaign by British and Zionist circles against Iraq.

In a statement to INA tonight, the source explained the ship is carrying steel pipes for a petrochemical project in Iraq.

The responsible source challenged anyone to prove these pipes are not for industrial purposes.

Government Expecting 'Possible Armed Aggression'

JN0804090890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed the Iraqi leadership is thinking along long-term, strategic lines, and expects possibilities and campaigns greater than the hostile campaign the West and the Zionist entity are launching against it.

In an article entitled "The Hostile Anti-Iraq Campaign—Motives and Reasons," the paper says: The Iraqi leadership is expecting a possible armed aggression against Iraq in one form or another to liquidate the results of its military victory, which transcended being a pure military triumph to a triumph of political and human thought, which itself had been the main cause of this victory.

The paper notes Iraq's missiles—which can carry out deep strikes—its long-range aircraft, early warning means, ways to shoot down enemy missiles before they reach their targets, and a deterrent weapon, such as the binary chemical weapon, which President Saddam Husayn recently revealed, are factors that could help inflict considerable losses on the enemy forces if this enemy dares attack Iraq. This is in addition to its ability to mount decisive retaliation to inflict perhaps further losses on the enemy, something Iraq lacked in the past.

The paper says that having highly destructive weapons and the enemy's awareness allowed the Iraqi leadership, which was tested in the eight-year war, to prove it is capable of making the most serious decisions and that it does what it says and grants Iraq an effective deterrent power capable of preventing aggression.

The paper points out the successes in the field of sophisticated industry have given the Iraqis high self-confidence and an increasing sense of their unlimited ability to enter other arenas of advanced technology, not only in the armament field, but in all walks of life. This success undermines a basic pillar of the Zionist security theory, which is based on the notion of qualitative technological supremacy, both in the military fields and other scientific domains.

The paper says Iraq's new status on the Arab nation's map, its esteemed position on the regional and international levels, its insistence on establishing its path of strength and civilized advancement, the credibility of its leadership, and its success in the political field, especially in terms of establishing the Arab Cooperation Council, all are factors that did not escape the minds of the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation in the United States, Britain, and the Zionist entity. An action, therefore, was considered necessary to confront such development in Iraq, because it could constitute an effective, polarizing factor in the region, which means the region might get rid of their control.

Paper Urges Arabs Unite To Counter 'Conspiracy'

JN1204073190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has called for adopting a unified Arab position and successfully confronting the Zionist-American-British conspiracy targeting all Arabs and pan-Arab security.

In its editorial today, the paper says any careful objective assessment of the vicious imperialist-Zionist campaign against Iraq must lead to the substantial and central conclusion that this campaign is much more than simply a media and political uproar over a spy who confessed to his crime and received a just punishment or over a normal business deal portrayed as a deal to make atomic bombs.

The paper adds: Yes, it is neither a fabricated media uproar over a spy, nor a premeditated political campaign over "capacitors" sold in local U.S. markets. Rather, it is a serious conspiracy targeting the Arab nation, its existence, and its national security. It is not aimed at Iraq alone, as some may think. Above all, it is not a new conspiracy in terms of motives and objectives, but an extension of the major aggression that sought essentially to impose colonialist and Zionist hegemony over the Arab nation, perpetuate Zionist occupation of the Arab territories, and block Arab progress and cultural renaissance by keeping Arabs in the grip of backwardness, fragmentation, and foreign dominance. [passage omitted]

The paper concludes: Because the conspiracy targets all Arabs and not just Iraq alone; because pan-Arab security is a unified whole; and because the entire pan-Arab existence is threatened, a successful confrontation of the

conspiracy requires a unified Arab position and effective, powerful joint pan-Arab efforts. It also requires agreement on a clear program of common Arab action to mobilize the nation's human and material resources and capabilities in a manner that forces the United States and others to respect the rights, interests, dignity, and security of Arabs. Otherwise, the enemies will continue their disdain of the nation's interests and legitimate rights, and their plots against the nation's security, sovereignty, and political options—something they currently are doing.

IAEA Inspectors Visit Nuclear Installations

JN1104124890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The national inspector of the Iraqi nuclear installations has said two inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] are currently visiting the Iraqi nuclear installations, which all are placed under IAEA control. The visit will last from 7 to 12 April.

The national inspector of the Iraqi nuclear installations told INA the two inspectors are conducting a full periodic inspection of all the Iraqi nuclear installations. They visited the Tammuz reactor, which was destroyed by an Israeli raid in 1981, and which Western circles claim Iraq has secretly rebuilt and is operating again. The IAEA will announce the results of its inspection next week.

Saddam Husayn, 'Arafat Discuss 'Zionist Threats'

JN1104182890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this evening Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended. Discussions centered on the latest Palestinian developments and the Zionist threats.

'Arafat conveyed to President Leader Saddam Husayn a message from the Palestinian people and the children of Palestine to his excellency, supporting him and pledging that they will continue their revolution and intifadah until the banners of the Arab nation are hoisted over holy Jerusalem.

Saddam, 'Arafat Address Iraqi Pilots, Officers

JN1104220890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has stated that, God willing, no rights will be lost if there are men to defend them. In a ceremony to decorate pilots and officers with medals of valor in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, his excellency said: Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is a dear brother and wherever he goes he represents the Palestinian people. I welcome him to Iraq on your behalf. With God's help, Palestine will have a flag and a land, and it is a duty to go there to congratulate him and the Palestinian people. God willing, we will see Palestine, its flag, and its people after they redeem their dignity.

His excellency added that Abu-'Ammar conveys to you the greetings of the Palestinian people, the stone-throwing children, men, and women in Palestine, and we in our turn ask him to convey our greetings and those of the men, women, children, and old men of Iraq to the Palestinians.

Addressing the president at the ceremony, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, said: You have honored me; and this is a great honor to me, and to every Palestinian child, man, and woman.

He said: Your Excellency the President, you have honored me because you escorted me to meet those courageous men of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Army under your leadership, O Arab knight. This is not an honor only to me, but also to every Palestinian child who stands with his small stone, with his flesh and blood, to face Israeli tanks. The Palestinian child faces the Israeli tanks knowing that you, your people, and your army—represented by those valiant men—stand on his side. The Palestinian children are fighting with the stone that has turned into the al-'Abid missile. Israel's obsession is to talk about it now, just as in the past the Israeli obsession was to talk about the military, technological, and cultural progress achieved by the Iraqi Army, people, and institutions.

'Arafat added: A Palestinian was given a 13-year sentence. He told the Israeli judge: Do you expect to stay 13 years with us? Saddam is coming to you. Mr. President, I thank you. I tell you on behalf of the Palestinian children, women, and men that our pledge and covenant will not change. It is God's promise. We will raise the Palestinian flag over the walls, churches, and minarets of Jerusalem and will pray together in the holy land.

President Saddam Husayn ate iftar [a meal to break Ramadan fasting] with Palestinian President 'Arafat and the heroic fighters.

Oil Minister Meets With Soviet Economic Official

JN1104135090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim has met with Mordvinov, deputy minister at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and deputy head of the Soviet-Iraqi joint committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting cooperation between the two countries in light of the joint committee meetings and minutes, and

the progress made in implementing these minutes, particularly regarding a number of oil projects in Iraq being implemented by Soviet institutions.

Trade Minister Meets PRC Minister, Delegation

JN1104135490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with PRC Communications Minister Qian Yongchang and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, they discussed ways to increase bilateral trade, as well as the topics that will be tackled by the seventh session of the joint Iraqi-PRC committee for trade, economic, and technical cooperation due to begin its meetings later today in Baghdad.

Industry Minister Confers With French Official

JN1104145690 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 11, INA—Iraqi Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Husayn Kamil Hasan met here today chairman of the French-Iraqi friendship society and his accompanying delegation. The minister reviewed horizons of the vast development plan implemented by the ministry in different industrial fields.

Chairman of the friendship society lauded the development and stability of the French-Iraqi relations and confirmed that the imperialist-Zionist plots aimed at affecting Iraq would be doomed to fail.

Saddam Chairs RCC-Regional Command Meeting

JN1004063290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this evening chaired a four-hour joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional command. Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of defense affairs, Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, and the Army chief of staff attended.

Jasim on Aims of Solidarity With Iraq Conference

JN1004122290 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 10, INA—Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Regional Command and in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau chaired this afternoon a meeting of the higher body of the Popular Arab Conference for the Solidarity with Iraq, opening here on May 7.

Mr Jasim said that the conference is aimed at disclosing the designed media campaign being launched by the Zionist, American and British circles with a view of tarnishing Iraq's image and active status at the Arab and international levels, impeding it from coping with the scientific and technological progress and possessing potentialities that would speed its advancement.

Mr. Jasim added that the conference would be held at a time the political and media campaign escalates against Iraq to the extent of bombing the Iraqi scientific links by the Zionist entity. [sentence as received]

IRAQI NEWS AGENCY learned that the higher body of the Popular Arab Conference had extended invitations to a large number of parties, professional and popular organizations and political and intellectual figures to attend the conference.

Peres Given Until 25 Apr To Form Government

Explains Extension Request

TA1104131590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1207 GMT 11 Apr 90

[News conference by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres at President Herzog's residence after Peres' meeting with the president—live]

[Text] [IDF Radio correspondent Yaron Deqel] Mr. Peres, has the president granted you a postponement?

[Peres] Yes. I asked for 15 days, and the president granted me this period. Making the decision, he considered the following three factors: First, the precedents; almost all prime minister-designates have asked for a postponement, and none were refused. The second factor is the holiday. The president made a point of enabling people to enjoy the holiday, as is the custom. The third factor is the circumstances I explained to the president. Naturally, Mr. Verdiger and Mr. Mizrahi still can change their minds, but what really pained me was the fact they announced their decision only this morning.

[Deqel] Is your statement about them changing their minds an assumption or fact?

[Peres] I said they can change their minds, and what pained me most was the fact they did it this morning. The president was very interested in hearing all the details of the events. He probed the issues, and naturally, I briefed him very thoroughly on everything.

[Jerusalem Radio correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch] What leads you to think you will be able to form a government, Mr. Peres?

[Peres] If Agudat Yisra'el does consist of five Knesset Members [MK's]—and by the way, all five, including Mr. Verdiger and Mr. Mizrahi, were present at the agreement-signing ceremony—then I have the backing of 61 MK's.

[Deqel] Mr. Peres, before you came an Agudat Yisra'el representative arrived at the president's residence bearing a message. Do you know what the message was?

[Peres] No. You must direct this question to him.

[Birenhack] What is your view of a national unity government?

[Peres] I do not know what a national unity government is, because the problem is what kind of policy Israel needs. We already have participated in a national unity government, have we not, and the current question is whether or not the political process is resumed. Things are much more serious than they appear. We did not secede out of a desire for power or because of government composition or its size, method, or system. I am convinced if Israel does not launch a peace process, we will lose the political initiative and create the conditions for a hostile initiative, for a coalition which does not aspire to peace. In my opinion, this situation will jeopardize many matters vital to Israel, including aliyah and immigrant absorption.

[IDF Radio correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack] Is the possibility of reviving the national unity government feasible today?

[Peres] I am not going to indulge in guessing. First of all, Mr. Verdiger's resignation will become valid in 48 hours. I do not know what Mr. Mizrahi's position will be on this issue, but if Agudat Yisra'el comprises five MK's, then I represent 61 MK's.

[Yehimovitch] Mr. Peres, there was talk today of Mr. Rabin replacing you in forming a government. What is your opinion?

[Peres, laughing] Why? What is the question? Is it authorized information? I was elected for my position, and yet you persist in dealing with speculations with unclear origins.

[Deqel] [Question indistinct]

[Peres] I believe in the leadership of Agudat Yisra'el more than ever. Although two of its members have quit, I am convinced the leadership did all it could to preserve the party's unity in the coalition.

[Deqel] Mr. Peres, at first you were supposed to request an extension of only 48 hours. Have you had a change of heart?

[Peres, laughing] You say I was supposed to. Who said I was? No one discussed this with me.

[Deqel] When do you believe you will return to the president's residence? Are you absolutely positive you will return within two weeks to announce a government?

[Peres] I do not want to guess. I have been charged with a task. With one exception, all those who were tasked with forming a government requested a postponement. As a matter of fact, even today I still am within the framework of the initial 21 days I had been given. There was this unpleasant surprise this morning, but we will have to deal with it as well.

[Deqel] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.

Move To Replace Peres

TA1204095190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Apr 90 pp A 1, 2

[Excerpt] Broad circles in the Labor Party are demanding Shim'on Peres be given no more than a week to form the new government, so that the remaining time, should the move fail, could be used to replace him with Yitzhaq Rabin, so Rabin can establish a national unity government based on an agreed upon plan.

Senior Labor sources last night vented feelings of frustration and disappointment with what was called the

"shameful show" of the pointless convocation of the Knesset during the Passover recess.

The Likud, on the other hand, still is optimistic regarding the chances of preserving the blocking alliance to abort Peres' chances of forming his own government, despite the rage over the president's decision to extend Peres' mandate by another 15 days.

The demand to limit the time placed at Peres' disposal was made by circles from various camps, including leaders of the mainstream group, Young Guard supporters, members of the Jerusalem region, younger members of the party, Histadrut members, and a growing number of MK's. "Where are the 73 MK's whom the negotiating team promised?" they asked.

Shlomo Hilel, head of the mainstream group, summoned his colleagues yesterday, immediately after realizing the failure at the Knesset. They demanded urgent Labor Party Bureau, faction, and Central Committee meetings to hear reports on the reasons that led to Peres' defeat. The members of the mainstream following expressed their fury with the lack of communication between the MK's and the negotiating team that navigated the contacts to a deadlock. At this stage, however, they decided to support Peres' attempts to form a government under his leadership.

But yesterday, other groups in Jerusalem already initiated contacts with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the NRP [National Religious Party] in a bid to examine the religious parties' willingness to move to substitute Rabin for Peres.

The attempt to garner support for this ouster among the religious parties was meant to circumvent dealing with Peres, who was observed to have reached a critical point—a direct blow from his colleagues. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 April carries an unattributed report on page 1 saying: "MK Yitzhaq Rabin objects to the continued efforts to set up a narrow-based government." Citing Rabin's "associates," the report goes on to say: "This is why Rabin decided not to interfere, for the moment, in Shim'on Peres' efforts to set up a government. They claim Rabin is allotting Peres a grace period 'even shorter than the time given him by the president'." Rabin reportedly is aiming at "establishing a national unity government with an agreement on the rotation of the prime minister, who will not necessarily be Peres as the head of the Alignment, and based on an understanding between the two parties—the Alignment and the Likud—to work toward electoral reform."]

Aguda To Meet Rabbi; Shach Against Rotation

TA1204052290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] A delegation comprised of members of the Council of Torah Sages and the Agudat Yisra'el Knesset faction is leaving for New York to meet with the Lubavitcher rabbi. This was reported by our party affairs correspondent, Shlomo Raz. The Agudat Yisra'el members expressed the belief the rabbi was not aware of the actual situation in Israel and had no knowledge of Agudat Yisra'el's commitments to the Alignment.

Sources in Agudat Yisra'el and ultraorthodox circles asserted Knesset Member [MK] Mizrahi eventually will capitulate and revoke his opposition to the Peres government or return his mandate to Agudat Yisra'el. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports MK Mizrahi said, however, that despite the heavy pressure on him from both the Alignment and the Likud, he will stick to his decision. Mizrahi pointed out he still has not decided whether he ought to establish an independent faction, but that he would, at any rate, support a unity government, if this possibility is discussed.

Our correspondent adds Rabbi Schach has expressed anger over the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] initiative to set up a rotational unity government. Rabbi Schach told Degel Hatora MK Ravitz that Degel Hatora and SHAS decided to support the Likud, and they must adhere to their decision and support a Likud-led government.

There is much rancor in the Council of Torah Sages regarding MK's Verdiger and Mizrahi. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that senior rabbis on the council said the two MK's had violated three principles: They did not obey the Council of Torah Sages; they broke a signed agreement; and they publicly shamed a man by stating their position only just before the Knesset vote. Members of the Council of Torah Sages stated the actions of MK's Verdiger and Mizrahi are an affront to religious Jewry.

Poll Shows Changing Popularity of Shamir, Rabin

TA1104140390 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] A poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute under the management of Dr. Rahel Yisre'eli shows that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's strength has declined in the Likud, while Yitzhaq Rabin's status has increased in the Alignment. The interviewees were asked two questions:

Which personality would you prefer as head of the Likud in the next elections?

	March 1990	Late Feb 1990	Early Feb 1990
Yitzhaq Shamir	24	24	30
Ari'el Sharon	9	13	11
Moshe Arens	11	8	10
Binyamin Netanyahu	6	6	5
David Levi	6	6	4
Binyamin Begin	6	6	3

Dan Meridor	3	3	3
Yitzhaq Moda'i	1	1	1
Other	2	3	2
Does not matter/			
Do not know/	32	30	31
Total	100	100	100

Which personality would you prefer as head of the Alignment in the next elections?

	Mar 1990	Late Feb 1990	Early Feb 1990
Yitzhaq Rabin	44	41	36
Shim'on Peres	21	19	20
Yitzhaq Navon	2	3	3
'Ezer Weizman	1	1	1
Other	7	4	6
Does Not Matter/			
Do not know	25	32	34
Total	100	100	100

Update on 9-11 Apr Incidents in Territories

TA1104134590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Apr 90 p A 3

[Excerpts] Arab sources reported eight people were injured in clashes with the Army during the holiday. According to the sources, most of the confrontations were in the Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, and Rafah refugee camps. Palestinian sources reported five residents were wounded in Khan Yunus during the holiday, two in Jabalyah, and one in Gaza.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's representative at the Southern Command reported that during the two days of the holiday, 9 and 10 April, disturbances took place in various locations in the Gaza Strip. The curfew on Khan Yunus remained in force, and the IDF spokemsman did not report any hospitalization of wounded people in the Gaza Strip. The IDF beefed up its forces in several locations during the holiday, and no unusual incidents were reported. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources reported four residents were injured in violent clashes in the Tulkarm refugee camp during the holiday. Two of them were injured by rubber bullets and hospitalized in al-Ittihad hospital in Nabulus. A 40-year-old man was hit by a rubber bullet in the stomach and had to undergo an operation at Tulkarm Hospital. An 18-year-old youth was injured by a plastic bullet in the leg. [passage omitted]

Military sources confirmed three residents were injured by rubber bullets during holiday riots in Tulkarm refugee camp, and an old observation tower no longer used was toppled.

Palestinian sources reported two Nur-al-Shams residents were wounded during the holiday; also reported wounded were five people in al-Jalazun, two in 'Askar, and one in Bethlehem. A 26-year-old stone thrower in the Nabulus casbah also was injured in the leg by a rubber bullet.

About 200 students marched in Bayt Furik, and one of the participants, a 17-year-old youth, was injured when shot in the leg by a rubber bullet. Two residents of 'Aqrabah were injured in an explosion currently thought to have been caused by dud ammunition. [passage omitted]

The IDF bolstered its presence in the West Bank during the holiday and increased its patrols along the main thoroughfares.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 11 April adds "Jerusalem police arrested six students from the East Jerusalem al-Rashidiyah school after they rioted. The riot was dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets. The school was ordered closed for one day."]

'Arafat Scheduled To Visit Amman 'Next Week'

JN1204101090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Apr 90 pp 1, 15

[Text] Palestinian ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has said Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Amman next week. He added that PLO Executive Committee Members Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) and 'Abdallah Hurani will arrive in Amman from Cairo today to prepare for 'Arafat's visit.

'Abd-al-Rahim said Jordanian-Palestinian coordination will be the nucleus of extensive Arab moves in the international arena prior to the U.S.-Soviet summit in May and the Helsinki conference on European security, which 34 nations will attend.

The Palestinian ambassador disclosed Syria has agreed to a five-way conference among the frontline Arab states to discuss possibilities of peace and war in the region.

Reportage, Reaction to Dole Delegation Visit

Resolution Protest Planned

JN1104083590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—A U.S. Senate delegation led by Republican leader Robert Dole arrives here this evening from Egypt against a background of scepticism from public officials and a planned protest organised by the local chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

Union leaders, local newspaper columnists and members of the Lower House called for a boycott of the delegation's visit in protest against the U.S. Senate's recognition last month of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. However, informed official sources confirmed Tuesday that Jordan Parliament members would meet with the visitors.

"There was talk of some sort of demonstration by members of the Lower House to protest the Senate resolution (on Jerusalem) but I guess nothing has become of that," said one deputy who said he was planning to join the protest.

Several members of the Upper House foreign affairs committee confirmed that they planned to meet with the delegation "if there is time."

"It would be a good opportunity to say a few things and set the record straight about the status of Jerusalem, the occupied territories and other Arab issues," Upper House Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi told the JORDAN TIMES, "Maybe the senators could use a briefing."

Tahir al-Masri, head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House, dismissed calls by other deputies to boycott the senators on their visit to Jordan. "The delegation is on an official visit and we have to meet them as their counterparts regardless of their position on Middle East issues," al-Masri said.

"If we meet with the senators we will certainly tell them what we think about the Senate's recent resolution on the status of Jerusalem and other issues. So maybe their visit will even do some good," al-Masri, a former foreign minister, told the JORDAN TIMES.

However, the local chapter of the ADC confirmed that a group of "about 50 to 60 people will stage a silent welcome/protest action" Wednesday evening at the Marriott Hotel, where the senators are expected to stay during their visit.

The protesters, who will include representatives of several popular organisations based in Amman and the occupied territories, will present a memorandum to the senators, "outlining the inadmissibility of any unilateral action on Jerusalem by anyone," said an official at the ADC.

The Senate delegation is on what is described as a "fact-finding" mission to the Middle East. Officials and columnists alike were questioning the purpose of the visit "only a few weeks after the adoption of resolution of Jerusalem and the fuss about Iraq."

As if to address at least part of the questions, Dole said after talks with Egyptian President Husani Mubarak in Cairo Tuesday that the delegation had added Baghdad in its schedule and would proceed to the Iraqi capital Thursday.

Mubarak "picked up the phone and arranged a meeting on Thursday" for the senators with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Dole told journalists. The Egyptian leader's action followed his discussions with the Senate delegation on American-Iraqi relations, which have taken a plunge in the wake of U.S. and British charges that Baghdad sought to acquire triggering devices for atomic bombs and a subsequent, though unrelated, expulsions of an Iraqi diplomat from the U.S. and an American diplomat from Baghdad.

According to Dole, "one thing we discussed (with Mubarak) was Iraq and our relationship and the fact that we are trying to see President Saddam Husayn," Dole said.

"We just want to listen (to Husayn). We are not going to say 'you're wrong.' We want to hear his point of view," Dole said.

The Senate delegation, which began its Middle East visit in Damascus Sunday, met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for what Dole described as "frank and constructive talks" on the situation in Lebanon, the hostages, and means of achieving peace in the Middle East.

Delegation Arrives

JN1104173390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The U.S. Senate delegation led by Senate Republican Minority Leader Robert Dole arrived in Amman this evening on a one-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will meet during the visit with His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman received the delegation.

Columnist on Senators' 'Audacity'

JN1104092090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 90 p 5

["Opinion and Analysis" column by Nirmin Murad: "With 'Friends' Like These, Who Needs Enemies?"]

[Text] In the eighties, and probably before, a certain U.S. congressman from New York used to drop in on us here in Jordan to check on what was happening to the peace process during that period and ask his usual awkward questions. The man, apart from being Jewish-American himself, was so pro-Israel that some of us Jordanians who had met with him started to ask some awkward questions ourselves. Why should we meet with such an automatically pro-Israel, instinctively anti-Arab U.S. representative? Could we possibly taper his pro-Zionist bigotry or preempt him from slandering us politically when he moved on to visit Israel next and he went back to Capitol Hill? Why should such a blind protector of Israel be allowed to come here again when all his previous visits had ended in new crusades against Arab policies and the Palestinian cause in the U.S. Congress and in the streets of New York?

Answers to these questions were attempted and volunteered by some government officials sometimes, but mainly by Arab-American organisations and pro-Arab lobbyists in the U.S. and by American diplomats here. Government officials usually maintained that channels of communications should remain open with American lawmakers so that the Israelis did not step in to sabotage what was left of the potentialy useful Arab-American dialogue. Arab-American organisations went around in Washington looking for senators and representatives and their staff to invite them to make the round in the Arab World. As to American diplomats, well, they or some of them at least, would imagine the unthinkable.

Stephen Solarz, the congressman whose story appears above, is the protector of Jerusalem as the property of Israelis alone, they would say. Without Solarz and his positive influence on Capitol Hill (on behalf of the Arabs presumably) Congress would have long adopted a resolution recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, one senior American diplomat once said. As it turned out the most pro-Israeli congressmen were really our good friends, and we did not know it. It was that funny.

Solarz may or may not be reigning supreme still as sub-chairman of the sub-committee on Asian afairs of the House of Representatives. But what matters is that he is not coming to visit us any time soon. Instead, some five of his colleagues in the Senate are dropping in on us today.

The timing of their visit is interesting, since at least some of these gentlemen have just voted Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. It was a voice vote in the Senate's session that adopted the resolution, and therefore we could not exactly figure out who was among the 84 senators who supported the resolution and why. We do know, however, that what Senator Dole said in Damascus in commenting on the resolution was not enough to dispel our fears about the Senate's dangerous position on Jerusalem.

Now, how the gentlemen who voted for the infamous resolution have the audacity to come here, to visit no less than four Arab countries, saying they are on a mission of peace, we do not know.

How they can be welcomed to visit the four Arab states is another of the old/new awkward questions that we have to ask ourselves. What kind of peace Dole and his fellow senators are looking for, when they have continuously trampled on all that may have contributed to peace-making in the area? Are these gentlemen really taking themselves seriously or are they intentionally immersing themsevles in ignorance and political naivete?

Senators who voted to give Jerusalem to the Israelis without an iota of right on their side should be talked to about the folly of their recent action. They should be told to cleanse themselves from the political dirt that the Israelis keep throwing at them.

Lest they forget, the Jerusalem resolution that they have adopted is not only morally and ethnically and historically wrong. I is also contrary to what they themselves implied in the language used in the resolution of March 22.

Not only is Resolution 106 based on false pretexts and Israeli fabrications of the truth, it is also in contradiction with the United States administration position on the issue of Jerusalem since 1967. Or do we need to remind the peace-loving senators that Jerusalem has been considered an integral part of the Israeli- occupied Arab territories by all successive U.S. administrations since the 1967 war?

The assumption by the U.S. Senate that Jerusalem "has been a united city," administered by Israel since 1967, is in direct contradiction of United Nations Resolution 242 which has been accepted by the world over, including the U.S., as an integral part of any peace process in the Middle East. Have our visiting senators forgotten international law which clearly forbids occupying powers from annexing occupied territory by force?

In drafting the resolution, its sponsors said that since its occupation of the city by the Israelis, "persons of all religious faiths have been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city." This is another indication of either the nativete of the U.S. Senate or an example of how facts could be distored to serve illegitimate Israeli interests and designs. Has anybody in the U.S. Senate been reading the newspaper reports of Israeli harassment of Muslims and Christians heading to their holy places? Or is that immaterial to them, just like U.N. resolutions and international law?

As for mention in the resolution that Israeli citizens were prevented from visiting the holy places in East Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967, it seems that our friendly senators need to go back to their history books for an hour or two. If they did, they would instantly become familiar with Israel's refusal at the time to implement the article of 1949 armistice agreement allowing Jordanian Christians to visit their holy places in Nazareth, in return for allowing Jews to visit Arab Jerusalem. History of that period would also teach the senators that Christians living in Israel were allowed to visit the holy places and their passage was arranged through the mixed armistice commission. These are facts, historical affadaits which are in direct contradiction with the distortions and half-truths which were included in Senate Resolution 106. When all these facts have escaped the attention and knowledge of the senators who voted for the resolution and are now traversing really understand what is happening in the Middle East? [sentence as published] When all these senators, all five of them, voted against the issuance of a visa to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and refused to listen to what he had to say, how could we allow them a forum to say what they want and all they want against peace?

We are not about to call for boycotting the visit of the five American gentlemen to our country or for expelling them from our land. This country has always opened arms for people from all over the world and will continue to do so. What we are striving to say, and in this we think we reflect the thinking and feelings of the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians, is that our American visitors cannot be taken seriously as true envoys of peace in our area.

For over 23 years now, mainstream Arab politics has believed in the value of dialogue with American policymakers, and quite often in their mediation efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is all changing now, as we have come to realise that double-talk retards the cause of peace rather than help it, and that automatic anti-Arab and pro-Israeli policies will lead nowhere.

King Relates Positions

JN1204075390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Senator Robert Dole, Republican minority leader, and his delegation last night at al-Nadwah Palace. The delegation includes several other American senators.

His majesty outlined Jordan's position on several regional and international issues; foremost, Soviet Jewish immigration, Jordan's resumption of the democratic process, formation of the royal commission to draw up the national charter, and the situation between Iraq and Iran.

His majesty expressed to Senator Dole and his companions Jordan's firm, principled concern about human rights, especially the individual's right to travel, immigrate, and choose his place of residence, provided his acquisition of all these rights is not at the expense of another individual. His majesty said Jordan, and Arabs in general, are not against the immigration of Soviet Jews, but they are against any attempt to settle them in the occupied Arab territory, which would result in the deportation of Palestinians from their land. His majesty said all powers and nations concerned about human rights needed to assume their responsibilities and declare and affirm their views through practical means so Soviet Jewish immigration will not lead to the deportation of Palestinian Arabs from their homeland.

His Majesty King Husayn described the campaign against Iraq as unfair and unjustifiable, stating that Iraq has not threatened or declared its intention to attack anyone. It simply exercised its legitimate right to affirm its readiness to defend itself against any attack. This reaction, he said, was prompted by the mounting political and propaganda campaign against Iraq, which has aroused suspicions it might be the prelude to an attack on Iraq's continued existence and development. His majesty asserted Iraq has a basic role in the stability of the region. It therefore is the duty of all parties to back the efforts being exerted to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 and end the deadlock that froze these efforts at the cease-fire point between Iraq and Iran.

His Majesty King Husayn reviewed for the U.S. Senate delegation the progress and objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council, referring to the future aspirations of this council and the two other: the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. He said the establishment of these councils has come to affirm the desire and aspiration of their countries and peoples to achieve peace and stability in the region and devote all their energies and resources to reconstruction, progress, and development, rather than to wars imposed on them.

For his part, Senator Dole confirmed that Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn have assumed a major role in achieving peace and stability in the region. He also expressed his appreciation for Jordan's resumption of its democratic process and movement toward pluralism to complete the democratic reconstruction process.

The king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman attended.

Decree Names 60-Member National Charter Team

JN1004095890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn Monday named a 60-member Royal Commission to draw up a national charter to regulate political life in the Kingdom and appointed former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat to chair the panel.

The JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, carried a Royal Decree giving the names of the commission's members, who include parliamentarians, scholars, intellectuals, university professors, political activists, writers and journalists.

Most of the names were already published by the JORDAN TIMES Saturday and Sunday.

Following are the names as carried by PETRA:

Ahmad 'Ubaydat (member of the Upper House of Parliament and ex-prime minister); 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah (the King's political advisor and a former minister); Khalil al-Salim (former minister and ex-governor of the Central Bank); Sulayman al-Hadidi (lawyer and former head of the Bar Association); 'Awad Khulayfat (president of Mu'tah University and former minister); Jum'ah Hammad (member of the Upper House of Parliament); Fawzi al-Tu'aymah (member of the Lower House); Muhammad al-'Alawinah (member of the Lower House); 'Isam Budayr (prominent industrialist); Hani Abu-Hijlah (lawyer); Mahmud al-Kayid (chief editor of AL-RA'Y); Jamal Tahat (columnist); 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam (trade union leader); Ibrahim Bakr (lawyer); Layla Sharaf (Upper House member and former information minister); Hamad al-Farhan (Upper House member and a leading member of the al-Qawmiyun nationalist movement in the 50s and 60s); Asma Khadr (lawyer and human rights activist); Sa'id al-Tall (former minister and university professor); 'Ali Abu-Nuwwar (former chief of staff of the Armed Forces and a leader of an opposition "free officers" movement in the 50s); Amin Shuqayr (former leading Ba'thist and now member of the Upper House of Parliament); 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from al-Balqa'); Yusuf al-'Azm (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Ma'an); Majid Khalifah (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Amman); 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from al-Tafilah); Ishaq al-Farhan (Muslim Brotherhood member and member of the Upper House); Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah (Ba'thist deputy from al-Karak); Muna Shuqayr (pan-Arab nationalist writer); Samir al-Habashinah (pan-Arabist writer and agriculturalist); Taysir al-Zibri (general secretary of the JPDP [Jordanian People's Democratic Party]); 'Isa Madanat (political bureau member of the Jordanian Communist Party and deputy from al-Karak); Dhib Marji (deputy from Irbid); Hamadah al-Fara'inah (writer); Akram Zu'aytir (Upper House member and historian); 'Aydah al-Mutlaq (political activist from Irbid); Iyad Qattan (director of the Royal Cultural Centre and a writer); Deputies 'Abdallah al-Nusur (independent); Jamal al-Khurayshah (independent); Sa'd Hayil al-Surur (independent); Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah (Muslim Brotherhood); Muhammad Abu-'Ulaym (independent); Tahir al-Masri (independent); Jamal al-Sarayirah (Muslim sympathiser); professors Labib Qamhawi, Sahban Khulayfat, Fawzi Gharayibah, Subhi al-Qasim, 'Adnan al-Bakhit and Muhammad Khayr Mamsar; writers and journalists Muhammad Ahmad 'Awwad, 'Abdallah al-Maliki, Sultan al-Hattab and Mahmud al-Sharif; Ibrahim Badran; 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali (former minister and ex-president of the University of Jordan); and Fawwaz Abu-Tayih (chief of protocol); 'Ali al-Suhaymat (former minister and present mayor of Amman); Wahib al-Sha'ir (representative of the Unionist Democratic Party); Husni 'Ayish (a liberal columnist and member of the Upper House of Parliament); 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar (poet and president of the Jordan Writers' Association); and Tahir Hikmat (former minister and prominent lawyer).

'Official Corruption' Trial Under Way 9 Apr

JN1004105990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—The first witness took the stand Monday in a case involving alleged official corruption, and his testimony appeared to strengthen the prosecution's argument that alterations made by a former official to a tender document were illegal.

Fu'ad al-Gharayibah, member of the tenders committee at the Ministry of Supply, indicated in his five-hour testimony that amendments allegedly made by former Ministry of Supply Under-Secretary 'Abdallah al-Hawamidah to a rice purchasing tender were illegal. The session was adjourned and al-Gharayibah will return to the stand next Tuesday.

Lawyers representing al-Hawamidah, who was released last month on a JD [Jordanian Dinars] 250,000 bail, and Ma'mun al-Talhuni, of the National Company for Development and Finance, pleaded not guilty to charges of "profiteering from an official position." both al-Hawamidah and al-Talhuni were present at the public session.

Ibrahim Bakr, representing the National Development and Finance Company in the case, cross-examined the witness on behalf of al-Hawamidah's lawyers. He tried to show that the amendments concerning the bagging of the rice in al-'Aqabah instead of the country of origin, the United States, was not contrary to the tender document. He also tried to establish that the document did not have a specific article concerning the place and quality of the bagging. Al-Gharayibah argued that although the document did not specify the bagging procedures, the ministry's original tender referred "indirectly" to these specifications.

The witness also appeared to implicate the Amman-based Nabat Agri-Business [name as published], the

other company which shared the tender with the National Development and Finance Company.

"The freight hired by Nabat Agri-Business to ship the rice proved not suitable for shipping consignments for human consumption," the officials said. He said that the freight hauls were rusty and had been filled with iron and steel shavings.

"Although tests have shown that a substantial quantity of rice was damaged because of the shipping, the ministry could not seek compensations immediately," he added.

The ministry then formed a special committee to identify the losses but "nothing came out from the panel," although Nabat Agri-Business' parent company, Balfour Mclean, offered to pay compensation of $20,000 more than was suggested by the ministry panel, according to al-Gharayibah. He did not identify the two figures or explain why the ministry had not reached a settlement. "If the witnesse's testimony is correct, then why has the ministry delayed reaching a settlement, especially one that is favourable," legal source commented.

Al-Hawamidah's Lawyer, Salih al-Jarudi, told the JORDAN TIMES Monday evening that the compensation matter with Nabat Agri-Business was not related to the case.

He did not rule out, however, the prospect that al-Gharayibah's information "could open another case."

Bank Governor on IMF, Economic Stability

JN1004121290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will sign the first draft of a letter of intent for 1990 in the coming few days in line with the aims and objectives of the ongoing economic restructuring programme which is designed to stimulate the national economy and bring about stability to Jordan's financial and monetary systems, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabusi announced Monday [9 April].

"The letter of intent adopts economic policies aimed at achieving a 2.5 per cent economic growth and reducing to 10 per cent the current inflation rate in the Kingdom, al-Nabulsi said in a statement carried by the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA.

The implementation of the programme, al-Nabulsi said, is expected to reduce the total deficit in the fiscal budget from 12.4 per cent in 1989 to 5.9 per cent in 1990.

"This is considered a truly corrective effort, implemented in a record short period of time," al-Nabulsi added.

He said that the programme also aimed at reducing the deficit in the country's balance of trade from 15.1 per cent in 1989 to 12 per cent in 1990.

"The government aims to restructure the general budget in a manner that it would show less dependence on foreign aid and is currently striving to maintain the present exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar," he added.

"At the same time, the government is determined to stem borrowing from foreign sources, and will continue to help the CBJ replenish the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves while at the same time rescheduling foreign debts as part of measures needed for the time being to achieve that goal," al-Nabulsi pointed out.

"In 1989, the national economy had attained stability, following a hard time and difficult circumstances and the government had been able to achieve some of the objectives of the economic restructuring programme," al-Nabulsi added.

He said that the past year witnessed a reduction in imports and general expenditure which in turn led to a reduction in the volume of deficit in the fiscal budget from 24 per cent in 1988 to 16 per cent in 1989.

"In the past year Jordan's exports increased by 11 per cent, almost double the expectations of the economic restrucuring programme of six per cent, al-Nabulsi said.

He said that Jordan's imports last year dropped by 12 per cent compared to the programme's expectations of four per cent, leading to a reduction in the balance of trade deficit.

Al-Nabulsi's statement came in the wake of a statement by Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah who announced that Jordan will soon acquire a $325 million loan from the World Bank to contribute to increasing foreign currency reserves and help redress the balance of payments deficit.

Jardanah, who spoke on Jordan Television Sunday evening, said that the Kingdom was able to increase its foreign currency reserves by $330 million in the past year.

Last week, Jardanah said that the IMF had cleared the way for Jordan to launch negotiations to reschedule its debt and interest payments due in 1991, and to secure the new loans during the 1990 fiscal year.

Negotiations 'Proceeding' To Free FRC Hostages

NC1104134890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Walid Khalid, spokesman for Fatah—The Revolutionary Council [FRC], has announced that negotiations to free the remaining hostages held by the FRC are proceeding favorably.

Islamic Jihad Urges Anti-Israeli Escalation

LD1104124690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1216 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, 11 Apr (KUNA)—Movement of Islamic Jihad in Palestine (MIJP) has called for escalating the daily confrontation in the occupied lands against the Israeli forces.

In a statement handed to KUNA Wednesday MIJP called for a general strike to protest the new Zionist emigration plan from socialist countries to Palestine.

The statement urged the Palestinians to escalate the uprising and to protest the occupation of Arab lands while intensifying public demonstrations during the month of Ramadan.

The statement also called for a general strike on Wednesday to commemorate the second anniversary of deporting the Shaykh Abdulaziz Awdah and consider Thursday as a day of confrontation against the Israeli occupation forces.

MIJP also called for general strike April 29 to protest the Zionist emigration plan to Palestine from the Soviet Union and socialist countries.

Talks Held on Draft Solution in Eastern Area

NC1204085890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] AL-NAHAR reported today that French, Arab, and Lebanese diplomatic and political activities have been taking place in the French capital since the beginning of this week. Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi met with former President Charles Hilu and mediation committee member Shakir Abu-Sulayman. Ibrahimi also held a long meeting with a number of officials in the French Foreign Ministry, particularly with Patrick Leclercq who also met with Shakir Abu-Sulayman.

Information has leaked that former President Charles Hilu might mediate with General 'Awn to persuade him to step down.

Meanwhile, Shakir Abu-Sulayman, mediation committee member and head of the Maronite League, has communicated to Ibrahimi and Patrick Leclercq the mediation committee's draft solution so that they can to convey it to the Arab Committee and the French Government. The draft solution is based on two important points:

1. Approval of the principle to amend the al-Ta'if agreement within the framework of the constitutional institutions; namely, through political dialogue and not through other means.

2. Formation of a new national unity government in which Christian representation will be based on the new situation in the eastern area.

UNIFIL Head Comments on Israeli Movements

NC1204080690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has revealed that he has secret information about Israeli movements in the south, but has declined to divulge this information. However, he furnished Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud with this information yesterday.

Hayik Inspects Military Barracks in Eastern Area

NC1104153290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Brigadier Elie Hayik, commander of the Jabal Lubnan military district, began an inspection tour of the military barracks in the Kasrawan area today. This tour forms part of the preparations to regain these barracks and ensure that the army command handles their military affairs.

Casualties Reported From 10 Apr Fighting

NC1104185390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff Command in East Beirut on 11 April—read by announcer]

[Text] While carrying out patrol duties in the forest area behind Kafr Dhibyan farm, a Lebanese Forces group clashed at 1600 yesterday with a group of 'Awn gunmen, estimated at 30 members of the commando force and 8th Brigade, which was trying to infiltrate toward Lebanese Forces positions. A fierce clash ensued. 'Awn's group suffered eight dead, including First Lieutenant Sharbil Abu-Nassar of the commando force, and 10 wounded, three of whom were critically injured.

When the infiltrating group was trying to retreat to the rear lines, three armored personnel carriers of the 83d regiment, which is stationed by Darayya bridge, tried to intervene to help the group. The Lebanese Forces opened antiarmor fire, destroying and burning two of the carriers. The third crashed and fell to the bottom of the valley. The Lebanese Forces suffered two dead and two wounded, one of whom went missing after he was injured.

Syrians Clash With Islamic Amal in Ba'labakk

NC1104122590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Biqa' has reported that a dispute occurred between members of the Islamic Amal and Syrian troops near the government house in Ba'labakk this morning. The dispute soon escalated into an exchange of fire. Tension prevailed and schools were closed. Shortly afterward, the Syrian forces fortified their checkpoints to control the situation.

Meanwhile, fighting involving light-caliber weapons broke out between Amal Movement members and others of the Islamic Amal last night. The clash lasted for five minutes and left two people injured. The Syrian forces interceded and managed to contain the incident.

Popular Liberation Army, Lahd Forces Clash

NC1104155490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] According to a security report from Sidon, clashes took place between personnel manning positions of the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces of the Popular Liberation Army and the Lahd militia on the 'Ayn al-Mir, Lib'a, Kafr Falus combat lines this morning. Medium- and heavy-caliber machine guns, rockets, and mortars were used in the fighting.

The same report said that clashes took place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The fighting abated gradually shortly before noon today after explosions were heard outside the area.

'Awn Gunmen Allegedly Fire at Minister's Boat

NC1104191890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' met with Phalangist leader Dr. George Sa'adah, Deputy Michel Sasin, and Simon al-Khazin at 1715 this evening. Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin joined the meeting later.

It is recalled here that 'Awn gunmen fired seven artillery rounds from their position in the al-Dubayyah hills at the boat in which Minister al-Khazin was traveling from Juniyah to Beirut, on his way back to the ministry's temporary headquarters in West Beirut.

Intermittent Clashes Reported in Eastern Area

NC1104135290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Regarding the security situation in the eastern area, there have been limited intermittent clashes in upper Kasrawan and on the Nahr al-Mawt, al-Dawrah, Sinn al-Fil, al-Ashrafiyah, and Hotel Dieu combat lines. Reports indicate that the two parties to the conflict are reinforcing their opposing military positions with troops and ammunition in preparation for what might be the final and decisive round.

Lebanese Forces Inflict Casualties

NC1104152490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces positions in al-Qulay'at have been coming under field artillery fire from 'Awn gunmen since 1400. The Lebanese Forces were compelled to return fire, inflicting several casualties on the 'Awn gunmen.

One Killed by 'Awn Forces

NC1104181290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 APR 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff Command in East Beirut on 11 April—read by announcer]

[Text] This morning the Lebanese Forces positions in al-Qulay'at came under artillery, rocket, and machine gun fire from positions held by 'Awn's gunmen in Darayya and Zabbughah. One woman was killed by sniper fire.

The Kasrawan coast, Zuq Musbih, Ju'ayta, and central Kasrawan came under a concentrated bombardment from 155-mm rounds at 1730 this afternoon. The Lebanese Forces artillery countered by shelling the aggressive 'Awn gunmen's emplacements.

Cease-Fire Announced 11 Apr

NC1104202990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] While a guarded calm prevails in the newly created combat lines in the Kasrawan area, security reports indicate that several shells fell in residential areas in central al-Ashrafiyah shortly before 2050 today. At approximately 2040, the Hotel Dieu and Olivetti neighborhoods came under bursts of 12.7-mm machine gun fire and flat-trajectory rocket fire.

Meanwhile, 'Awn's gunmen have been firing illumination flares over the Nahr al-Kalb area intermittently since 2100. 'Awn's gunmen directed random shellfire at residential areas in coastal and central Kasrawan for half an hour this afternoon. The shelling abated at 1800 hours, when a cease-fire agreement was announced.

Group Claims Bombing of 'Awn Military Truck

NC1104193290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Apr 90

["Communique No. 2" issued by the Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Group; place and date not given]

[Text] At 1000 on 10 April, a unit of the Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Group blew up a military truck belonging to 'Awn's units at the headquarters of the 91st Brigade in al-Hamra' Street in the al-Hadath area [in East Beirut]. The explosion of the device which was planted inside the military vehicle resulted in the death of one member and the wounding of four other members of 'Awn's units. The casualties were taken to St. Therese Hospital.

The Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Group warns General 'Awn and his units that it can reach them deep in their positions. They will be chased everywhere until 'Awn frees the Lebanese Army's units. The group reiterates its request to the citizens to keep away from 'Awn's units' positions and vehicle parks for their own safety.

Al-Ashrafiyah Under Bombardment From 'Awn's Men

NC1204093990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The central areas and fringes of al-Ashrafiyah continue to come under indiscriminate mortar and rocket bombardment from 'Awn's gunmen's positions, especially in al-'Adliyah and Buick areas. Citizen Constantine Qarqash, 65, was wounded and taken to Hotel Dieu hospital.

'Awn's gunmen began their attacks this morning with sniper fire and RPG's. These attacks intensified as of 0900 when the residential areas on the fringes of al-Ashrafiyah came under shelling. 'Awn's gunmen then began to bombard the central areas and fringes of al-Ashrafiyah indiscriminately. They also have heated up the newly created combat lines in the eastern area.

Shelling of Al-Ashrafiyah Abates

NC1204104390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The indiscriminate shelling of the al-Ashrafiyah area abated at about 1120 today. However, intermittent bursts of machine gun and rocket fire is continuing from the 'Awn gunmen's positions toward Lebanese Forces positions and residential neighborhoods in the Olivetti and Hotel Dieu areas.

The suburbs and central areas of al-Ashrafiyah earlier were under indiscriminate mortar and rocket fire since 0900 today. The shelling intensified between 1000 and 1100.

It has been reported that Lebanese Forces positions in some Kasrawan areas have been coming under intermittent shell fire by the artillery of the 'Awn gunmen.

Further on 12 Apr Clashes

NC1204110490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The clashes on the combat lines in East Beirut have expanded to the Kasrawan front. [passage omitted].

'Awn's radio has reported that the positions held by the al-Yarzah army, residential areas, and the area of al-'Adliyah where ministries are located, have been coming under rocket fire from Ja'ja' forces' positions in al-Ashrafiyah. The radio also indicated that the al-Yarzah army positions in al-Qulay'at also have been coming under violent tank weapons and rocket fire.

The radio said that the army is returning the fire to silence the attacking positions. It added that a Lebanese Forces tank was destroyed in the concentrated return of fire.

Talas on Freeing Hostages 'This Year'

JN1204112190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has said he hopes the foreign hostages in Lebanon will be released during this year. Gen Talas announced that at the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is making his utmost effort to definitively solve the hostages problem.

Commentary Cites Israeli 'Aggressiveness'

JN0804210790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] By the end of the work of the Jerusalem Committee in Rabat and the work of the Interparliamentary Union in Nicosia, we were able to clearly distinguish between those who support the Arabs' just rights and those biased toward Israel's aggressiveness and who support Israel to continue to challenge the international will. There was a unanimity within the Jerusalem Committee on the seriousness of the Zionist plans to Judaize Arab Jerusalem, establish more settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and bring millions of Jewish immigrants and settle them in these territories. There was also a semi-unanimity at the Interparliamentary Union's conference about condemning Israel, its settlement and colonialist plans, and its terrorist policies in the occupied Arab territories. Excluding Israel from the drafting committee at this conference reveals the extent of Israel's isolation at the conference as a result of its insistence on its policies, which are hostile to peace.

The Rabat and Nicosia meetings have underscored the growing international belief that Israel is a factor of tension and explosion in the Middle East and a major obstacle to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. These meetings also proved the world is aware of the dimensions and the dangers of Zionist settlement plans in the Arab region and that the international community sympathizes with Arab concerns and rights, which the West has placed on the shelf of oblivion. Western countries pay no attention to these concerns and rights. Instead, they always adopt Tel Aviv's views.

It is no coincidence international meetings, conferences, and circles have referred to the negative role the United States is playing in this sensitive area of the world. This role has been prime instigator for Israel to carry out its aggressive plans and projects. By repeatedly criticizing Washington's bias toward Israel and blaming the U.S. Administration or the U.S. Senate, which called for making Jerusalem the capital of Israel, the international community intends to show Israel's isolation also affects its primary protector, the United States.

Gentlemen, anyone following developments in the Middle East will observe that the new Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and their settlement in the occupied Arab territories constitute an additional factor of tension and of new crimes against the Arabs. They are even a flagrant aggression against the Arab nation, its rights and its existence. The international community feels the dangers of this immigration and has warned against it in several places in the world. Meanwhile, Washington adopts a completely different position and sees no danger in this issue. James Baker, moreover, encourages settlements in Arab Jerusalem, and the Bush administration grants Tel Aviv millions of dollars to facilitate the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

Amid this Arab and international unanimity on the dangers of Israel's plans, the Arab ministerial committee began its undertaking in Europe and with the five permanent Security Council member states to explain these dangers. The Jerusalem Committee also will begin efforts within the international community to mobilize more international support for the Arab cause, expose Israel's role hostile to peace in the region, and reveal the dangers of Israeli policy, which enjoys unlimited U.S. support. But these moves will remain within a diplomatic and political framework, which will not bear fruit unless the Arab nation backs them with a unified position and a clear strategy based on the mobilization of all economic, political, military, and ideological energies to confront a fully studied plan to create Greater Israel and achieve other goals.

International support always is needed. But what is more important is the unity of word and action, because the goals are one and the dangers threatening everyone are also the same. If the Arabs do not understand this point, international support will remain short of achieving what the Arabs want from that support.

Afghanistan

Moscow Reportedly Proposes Interim Government

BK1204103690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has proposed the creation of a provisional Afghan Government, parallel to the Moscow-backed Najibullah regime but solely charged with organising general elections, a Soviet diplomat said here Thursday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made the proposal to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington last week, Soviet Embassy Spokesman Mikhail Karpov said.

Pakistan, which supports Muslim resistance forces fighting the Kabul regime, wants elections before the end of the year under the supervision of the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), according to Iqbal Akhund, foreign affairs and national security adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Under the Soviet proposal, a provisional government would be established "on a party basis" involving Afghan factions in Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and "elswhere," with the sole task of organising a "general, democratic, and impartial elections," Mr. Karpov said.

Moscow was not opposed to U.N. and OIC supervision of elections, he said. The provisional administration would function together with the existing government, but would assume none of its functions, he said.

Washington reacted with interest to the proposals, but stressed that Afghan President Najibullah's hold on power during a transitional period would be unacceptable to the mujahidin's Afghan Interim Government based in Pakistan.

According to Mr. Akhund, quoted in the pro-government PAKISTAN TIMES on Thursday, Moscow has accepted the idea in principle that Mr. Najibullah must go "at a certain stage."

"There is no reason why we should not expect a solution to the Afghan issue within this year," he said. He said that all resistance groups, including the nine Iran-based Shiite Muslim factions, the seven Sunni Muslim factions in Pakistan, as well as other elements such as former Monarch Zahir Shah, now in exile in Rome, all agreed that, "Najibullah has no further role."

In an allusion to Mr. Najibullah's ruling Afghan People's Democratic Party, he said that all parties may not agree on this, but all must be included in any settlement to the conflict.

Since Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February 1989, peace moves have been consistently blocked by mujahidin intransigence towards Mr. Najibullah, described by them as responsible for "more than one million" Afghan deaths.

Although Moscow, Washington, and now Islamabad are pressing for peace, ethnic, tribal, religious and political divisions of the opposition have prevented agreement on a minimum peace initiative.

Mujahidin, Regime Continue 'Intense Fighting'

BK1104160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of continued intense fighting between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in the Pashtun Zarghun area of Herat Province. At a function in that area last week, the mujahidin made a heavy offensive on the Kabul troops. According to reports, he have captured all the military posts of the district, and only a small locality is under the control of the Kabul troops. Reports say that the mujahidin have also attacked the security line of the city and airport in Herat.

Meanwhile, Kabul regime aircraft are heavily bombing the Pashtun Zarghun and (Zinda) areas in retaliation for the mujahidin attacks.

Reported Mujahidin Rocket Lands Near Airport

BK1204083890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 12 (AFP)—Twelve school children and two adults were killed Thursday when a rocket fired by suspected mujahidin rebels hit a bus stand near the airport here, witnesses and officials said.

The Egyptian-made Sakar rocket exploded at the bus station in the meteorological area of the airport, witnesses said, adding that a mini bus was destroyed in the attack. Several people were wounded in the attack, officials said. Between 12 and 14 school children were waiting at the bus stand when the rocket hit. One of the two adults killed was a soldier.

Minister Says Coup Attempt United Military

BK1104170290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1645 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 11 (AFP)—Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanjar Wednesday [11 April] said last month's coup attempt here had united Afghanistan's military and the armed forces were now in full control of vital installations.

The new defence minister told his first press conference here that steps had been taken to prevent another coup to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah. Mr. Watanjar, 44, did not elaborate on those measures, but said that certain "tasks" had been

assigned to the Defence Ministry to strengthen the armed forces who were fighting the mujahidin.

Mr. Watanjar, a former tank commander who was instrumental in overthrowing Afghan King Zahir Shah in 1973, replaced former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay who fled the country after leading a failed coup in March.

"The ranks of the armed forces are more united now as never before," Mr. Watanjar said, attributing the new unity to the suppression of the March 6 coup that involved the arrests of some 600 people, mostly renegade commanders.

"The crushing of the coup is a good proof of the strength of the Afghan Armed Forces and the present state of battle preparedness is at a level that it could meet plots and plans of conspirators (in the future)," Mr. Watanjar said.

The news conference was packed with foreign journalists invited to listen to the minister who is said to have considerable influence on the Khalqi faction that dominates the Afghan military.

"The coup attempt has inflicted some material damage and led to the killings of some compatriots, but morally great damage has been suffered by the plotters because they were exposed and lost credibility among the people of Afghanistan," he said.

"The armed forces have also been cleared of all the parasites," Mr. Watanjar said, when asked about the possibility of Mr. Tanay's sympathisers still remaining in the forces. "Tanay has few colleagues and no supporters in the Afghan forces. They have been expelled from the military and their joining hands with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar (a mujahidin faction leader) has forever isolated the plotters," Mr. Watanjar said.

Kabul blames Pakistan and fundamentalist rebel group Hezb-e Eslami for supporting the coup which also caused more than 100 civilian deaths. On Wednesday, Mr. Watanjar had admitted that the Hezb-e Eslami led by Mr. Gulbuddin was proving to be most dangerous.

Answering a question, the minister said: "The composition of the Afghan forces is such that one cannot organise a coup and Tanay was a good example of that fact. Our present politico-military system is based on alertness, but in every government and country there are a handful of traitors and sometime they rise against the people of their countries," Mr. Watanjar said.

He said Kabul was confident of receiving continued military aid from Moscow as long as the fratricidal war continued in Afghanistan. "Soviet Union will continue to assist us until peace is restored," he said.

Mr. Watanjar, regarded as President Najibullah's most trusted aide, said Afghanistan would continue to pursue the 1986 peace policies of national reconciliation and promised to overwhelm militarily those who created hurdles.

Referring to last week's carnage at a surrender ceremony in Herat Province by the mujahidin, Mr. Watanjar said that the bloody incident would not deter the government or people from pursuing reconciliation.

"We would take countermeasures during future surrenders and even willing groups of the rebels would not also allow terrorists to infiltrate the ceremonies," he said about the Herat massacre, which left 20 people dead.

Najibullah Receives UN 'Special Envoy' 11 Apr

LD1104180190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met His Excellency Swan, under secretary general and special envoy of the UN secretary general, at the Presidential Palace this morning. At this meeting Swan gave information about the role of the UN and of His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, in the political solution of the Afghanistan issue.

In expressing gratitude for the UN secretary general's goodwill efforts for the political solution of the Afghanistan issue, esteemed Najibullah expressed hope that the UN, as a credible international organization, will play a more active role for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue. He asked the UN secretary general to give further impetus to his goodwill efforts in this respect.

Poll Results Reported in Mujahidin-Held Konarha

BK1104134590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, April 10—The results of the recently-held elections in Mujahidin-controlled Konarha province have finally been announced giving both Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Maulana Jamilur Rahman's Jamaat al-Dawatul Quaranwa Sunnah 35 seats each in the 124-member shura.

A statement signed by the chief election commissioner, Maulvi Ghulam Rabbani, said 1,42,740 [figure as published] votes were cast in the polls held under proportional representation system in Konarha and in some Afghan refugees camps in Pakistan from March 1 to 12.

He claimed the polls were conducted peacefully and smoothly.

Jamiat-e Eslami won 15 seats, followed by National Islamic Front of Afghanistan with 10 seats, Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis), Ittehad-e Eslami (Sayyaf), and Afghan National Liberation Front of Prof. Mojaddedi with five seats each. Maulana Mohammad Afzial's Dawat Inquilab-e Eslami Afghanistan won four seats while Ittehad-e Eslami (Qazi Amin Waqad), Harakat Inquilab-e Eslami (Hasrullah Mansoor), and Harakat Inquilab-e

(Maulvi Nabi Mohammadi) three seats each. Maulana Sher Zamin's Ishaat Tawheedwa Sunnah got one seat.

All these parties are now required to appoint their nominees on the shura.

Maulvi Ghaulam Rabbani, who is affiliated to Prof. Burhanuddim Rabbani's Jamiat-e Esslami and is a former governor of Konarha did not provide the breakup of votes polled by the 12 parties. No mention was made to the disputed votes from three polling stations in Naristan valley which Hezb-e Eslami wanted to be counted while finalising results, a move opposed by Maulana Jamilur Rahman's Ahle Hadith Party which argued that the ballot boxes had reached Konarha's capital, Asadabad, behind schedule and ought to be declared invalid.

It appears that a compromise was reached between the two parties by getting an equal number of seats. The Ahle Hadith commonly called "salfees", had earlier claimed victory in the elections.

The Afghan Interim Government [AIG] had rejected the polls and asked its component parties to boycott them. Local leadership of most of the AIG parties had, however, ignored the boycott call and participated in the elections.

Rabbani Group To Continue 'Guerrilla' Warfare

PM1104160390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Apr 90 p 9

[Interview with Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan and reconstruction minister in the Afghan mujahidin "interim government," by Ahamd Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaydan] It was noted that the Islamic Society attacked the Tanai coup attempt. Why did you not at least exploit that opportunity by launching attacks on the regime's positions?

[Rabbani] The coup attempt was carried out in an atmosphere of secrecy on [Islamic Party of Afghanistan leader Gulbuddin] Hekmatyar's part. And others had absolutely no knowledge of how the attempt was carried out. The coup attempt lasted for only one or two days, so conditions were not favorable since military attacks require prior planning. Besides, some areas were covered with snow and the brothers learned about the attempt late, as it came as a surprise. Also the attempt did not last long, so we could not make a move. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] Did the Islamic Party not inform the other parties of its links with the coupists and the possibility of such a coup's being carried out?

[Rabbani] The brothers rejected that coup and could not imagine that the party would ally itself with the Khalq wing, abandon its brothers, and throw itself into Khalq's lap, when the mujahidin are closer to him than that group. [sentence as published]

[Zaydan] What is the society's military plan at present?

[Rabbani] Lack of ammunition has prompted us to think about launching attacks on the regime's small and weak positions, so as not to waste our ammunition and in order to split the enemy's forces as happened in Konduz. So we will turn to the lightning strike method, rather than all-out war, in order to force the enemy to surrender.

[Zaydan] Does that mean that you will continue the guerrilla warfare?

[Rabbani] Yes; hit and run, but on a large scale. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] There were reports during your visit to Iran about your intention to form a government with the eight-party alliance based in Tehran. What is your comment?

[Rabbani] That is a fabrication and one of the rumors constantly circulated. It is baseless, and any government involving us and them will be formed collectively, not individually.

[Zaydan] Najibullah met with the field commanders of the eight-party alliance based in Tehran. Have you discussed that with the alliance in Iran?

[Rabbani] The alliance's official spokesman denied that that could have been in their plan. He regarded the commanders as traitors, denounced their contacts with Najibullah, and considered them outside the alliance.

Bangladesh

Opposition Protests Indian Action in Kashmir

BK1104134490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Dhaka, April 11 (AFP)—Some 1,000 supporters of a Bangladeshi opposition party marched along main Dhaka thoroughfares Wednesday [11 April] calling for an end to alleged repression by the Indian Government in Kashmir. They chanted slogans and carried placards which included "Down with Indian imperialism" and "Stop genocide in Kashmir."

The Bangladesh Muslim League, led by its chief, Kazi Abdul Kader, marched to the Indian High Commission (embassy) in Dhanmandi District and handed a memorandum to an Indian diplomat as armed riot police guarded the area.

Details of the memorandum were not available.

Earlier, Khaleda Zia's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) expressed concern at the situation in

Kashmir, where a violent Muslim separatist campaign against New Delhi has raised fears of a fresh Indo-Pakistan war.

The BNP issued a statement Wednesday calling for a negotiated solution which it said should be based on a U.N. resolution supporting the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

The BNP, a former ruling party that was ousted in a 1982 bloodless coup, also called for an end to what it called "repressive" security measures taken in Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Minister Reaffirms Support for Palestinian Cause

BK1104132090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Bangladesh consistently supports the Palestinian call from Tunis that the Soviet Jews must not be allowed to settle in the occupied Arab territories. This was stated by the foreign minister, Anisul Islam Mahmud, on his return to Dhaka Wednesday [11 April] from Rabat after attending the meeting of the Al-Quds committee. He said Bangladesh also believes that the settlement of the Jews in the occupied Arab territories would hold up the [word indistinct] Middle East peace settlement. The Bangladesh foreign minister led a two-member delegation to the meeting. [passage omitted]

Police Seize More Than Three Tons of Marijuana

BK1104154590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 11 (AFP)—More than three tons of marijuana were recovered Wednesday from a village storehouse in a district of eastern Bangladesh, police sources here said.

They said three and half tons of marijuana was stored at Belabo village in Narsingdi District, 35 kilometers (22 miles) from here, adding that the drug was being cultivated in two other nearby villages on about eight acres (1.4 hectares) of land. One ton was found processed for sale while the rest was stored in an unrefined state, the police said.

No one was arrested and those suspected to be responsible for the store had fled the scene, they added, saying an investigation was under way. Police and anti-narcotics officials reportedly recovered two and half tons of marijuana during February and March this year from the tourist resort town of Cox's Bazaar and the Savar sub-district of Dhaka.

In recent years, Bangladesh has become a major market for drugs, sited at the end of routes from the notorious Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran), and Golden Triangle (Thailand, Burma and Laos) areas. The country has some seven million drug addicts and the number is growing, social workers say. Drug trafficking carries a maximum penalty of death in Bangladesh.

India

Tensions Continue With Pakistan Over Kashmir

Border Patrols 'Intensified'

BK1104152890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 11 (AFP)—Tension was brewing on the India-Pakistan frontier Wednesday [11 April] as India sounded a red alert and intensified border patrols in Kashmir following reported military moves by Pakistan, officials said here.

The moves came a day after Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh asked the nation to be psychologically prepared for war with Pakistan after charging Islamabad with promoting insurgency in Kashmir.

Indian defence authorities said in Kashmir's winter capital here that Pakistan had started "extraordinary troop movements" and was evacuating civilians from border villages.

India was taking countermeasures by sounding a red alert and stepping up patrols along the tense border, the authorities said, adding that they feared Pakistan was up to "serious mischief."

In New Delhi, a spokesman for the Defence Ministry would not comment.

Pakistan Forces Said on 'High Alert'

BK1204032490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi has expressed surprise over Pakistan Army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg's statement that India has deployed its strike force near the border in the Rajasthan sector. Official sources said in New Delhi last night that during peacetime some movement is always there.

An agency report from Islamabad says Pakistan has put its Armed Forces on high alert. The alert was announced by General Beg at the end of a two-day meeting of his corps commanders.

'Terrorist' Presence Protested

BK1204081090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] India has strongly protested to the United Nations against the misuse of its premises by a terrorist group which kidnapped and slew innocent people in Kashmir. India's mission to the United Nations has also raised the matter with the United States mission to the world body. New Delhi's UN envoy, Mr. Gharekhan, has written a letter to this effect to the secretary general, Mr. Perez de

Cuellar, protesting the abuse of the UN premises by a terrorist group. Mr. Perez de Cuellar is currently away from the headquarters. The Indian envoy called on the under secretary general, Mr. (Siveni), and lodged a protest. Mr. (Siveni) has agreed to inquire into the matter.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the UN chief commenting on the killings of three hostages in Kashmir said that the secretary general has deplored and condemned the killings of innocent civilans. In Washington, the Indian charge d'affairs, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, has demanded the expulsion of [president of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] Amanullah Khan whose organization is on the U.S. terrorist list. The United States has promised to consider the circumstances in which he managed to enter the country. It is learned that Mr. Mansingh conveyed India's deep concern and regret at the presence of Amanullah Khan in the United States and inflammatory statements he made on the American soil. The issue was taken up yesterday with the assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Kelly. He was apprised of the violent activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, including the recent murders in Srinagar.

U.S. Receives Message

BK1104145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] India today conveyed to the United States its concern over the provocative statements made by the leader of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Amanullah Khan, on the American soil. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said at a press briefing in New Delhi today that the U.S. charge d'affaires, Mr. (Grant Smith), was summoned to the Foreign Office in this connection. The spokesman said that killings by the subversives are the greatest violation of human rights where innocent persons are being made victims of senseless externally inspired and motivated violence.

'Massive Manhunt' in Kashmir

BK1104155690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 11 (AFP)—Troops shot dead two suspects during a massive hunt mounted Wednesday [11 April] for Muslim militants who murdered three hostages, as New Delhi vowed tough action and accused Pakistan of orchestrating the violence.

Security forces fired light machine guns in the Pathshahi Bagh area of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, when militants and their supporters tried to prevent searches and opened fire, an official spokesman said. Two men were killed and nine wounded in the exchange of fire, the spokesman said here in Kashmir's winter capital.

He said troops also fired in several other Srinagar areas to disperse violators of a round-the-clock curfew staging anti-India demonstrations, but there were no casualties.

Meanwhile separatist groups told local newspapers they would intensify their bloody campaign to free Kashmir from New Delhi's rule, as the hostage killings stunned the country and sparked an uproar in Parliament.

Federal paramilitary reinforcements have joined thousands of troops and police to comb the Kashmir Valley for the killers of a business executive, a prominent academic and one of his aides, officials said here.

On the sixth day of the curfew, exit points from Srinagar City were sealed off and paramilitary forces warned on megaphones that curfew violators would be shot on sight.

The bullet-riddled bodies of Kashmir University Vice-Chancellor Mushirul Haq and his personal assistant Abdul Ghani were discovered at midnight Tuesday on the airport road in Srinagar. Both were Muslims. The body of Mr. Mashir, 55, an internationally respected Urdu and Arabic scholar, was flown to New Delhi on Wednesday for burial.

A third hostage, H.L. Khera, was brought to Srinagar's Batmalloo area near the police control room Tuesday by a carload of gunmen and sprayed with bullets. Mr. Khera, 46 and a Hindu, was general manager of a state-owned watch factory in Srinagar. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said Mr. Khera was cremated with state honours in northern Chandigarh City where his wife and two sons live, adding that the family refused to accept a wreath sent on behalf of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Mr. Khera, Mr. Mushirul Haq and Mr. Ghani were kidnapped Friday by the youth wing of the secessionist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which demanded freedom for three jailed associates in exchange. The JKLF is spearheading a bloody separatist campaign that has left almost 400 people dead so far this year.

New Delhi has blamed neighbouring Pakistan, which disputes the ownership of Kashmir, for instigating the violence. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the two countries gained independence in 1947, and Mr. V.P. Singh on Tuesday told the nation to be "psychologically" prepared for another armed conflict.

Home Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, a Kashmiri whose daughter was kidnapped by Muslim militants in December and freed unharmed, told Parliament in New Delhi that the killings were the latest example of Pakistan's involvement in "aiding and instigating the militants." He said no effort would be spared to catch and punish the killers.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman called the hostage killings "the grossest violations of human rights, where innocent persons are being made victims of senseless, externally inspired and motivated violence." He said the killings were part of a "sinister pattern of

violence being orchestrated by so-called leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and elements within Pakistan itself."

The hostages were killed a day after Pakistan-based JKLF leader Amanullah Khan told a New York press conference they had been executed, a statement Indian officials saw as a signal to his followers to execute the captives.

In New Delhi, some 250 Indian political activists demonstrated outside the Pakistan High Commission (embassy) Wednesday, chanting slogans against Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The hostage killings plunged Parliament into an uproar, with opposition MPs [members of Parliament] belonging to former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party demanding an immediate government explanation and accusing Mr. V.P. Singh's administration of insensitivity on the Kashmir issue. Congress (I) deputies stormed out twice before the home minister made his statement.

Mr. Gandhi repeated accusations Wednesday that the new government's weakness had led Pakistan to "don a belligerency which we have not seen in decades."

Pakistan has supported the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, with Ms. Bhutto stressing her willingness to fight a "1,000-year war" over the region, but Islamabad has denied aiding the separatists.

Defense Minister Comments

BK1204092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The seventh offshore patrol vessel Vigraha, built by the Mazagaon Dock Limited, has joined the naval fleet.

Commissioning the vessel, the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, has said that India is prepared to meet any threat from across the border. Referring to Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of the country, he said that nobody can play with India. The minister lauded the Coast Guard for carrying out its duties during difficult times.

The Vigraha is the first of the third series of offshore patrol vessels built for the Coast Guard. Two more of a similar series are being built at the Goa shipyard.

Home Minister on Hostage Death

BK1104130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha today expressed deep grief and shock over the killing of the vice chancellor of Kashmir University, Professor Mushirul Haq, and his personal secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi [name as heard], by the subversives. Members also recalled the killing of the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera, a day earlier and expressed their anguish. The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, voicing the sentiments of members said the entire house is one in condemning such dastardly killings.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, making a statement conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He said these killings confirm that the leader of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], Amanullah Khan, by his statement in New York had virtually instructed the abductors to carry out these despicable crimes.

Union Energy Minister Injured at Funeral

BK1204032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The union energy minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, was injured in an attack by an angry mob at the funeral of the Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq, in New Delhi last night. Mr. Khan was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The hospital sources say the minister has since been discharged from the hospital.

Six 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK1204020790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab six hard-core terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Raniwal village of Faridkot District this afternoon. In another incident, a veteran freedom fighter and a newspaper agent, Mr. Charandas Gupta, was shot dead by terrorists in Faridkot early this morning. The terrorists also shot dead two farmers in Ferozepur District in separate incidents.

V.P. Singh on Significance of Rural Development

BK1004051490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today said that acceleration of agricultural growth and rural development will get priority attention of the government. This was stated by the prime minister, while inaugurating the fifth national meeting organized by the world economic forum and the confederation of engineering industries in New Delhi today.

[Begin Singh recording] We propose to pay priority attention to accelerating agricultural growth and promoting rural development. We have had important successes in the agricultural field in the past. But much more needs to be done. With this end, we have decided to direct a larger proportion of the government's resources to the development of agriculture and to the creation of a social and economic infrastructure in rural areas. The potential role of foreign investment has obviously increased very considerably in today's world with the increasing [word indistinct] in production and integration of markets. We welcome such foreign investment in our priority areas of interests. We do not propose to follow an open door policy of eliminating all

restrictions on foreign investment. We will continue to be selective. There are certain areas of the economy where we feel foreign investment is not necessary. But there are large areas where it is useful. As a general rule, foreign investment should be limited to 40 percent of equity. However, we are proposed to consider high levels of equity investment in the areas of high technology or where there is a strong export orientation [end recording].

This was Mr. Singh's first meeting with industrialists and businessmen after assuming office. Mr. Singh said the government would present a long term fiscal policy to Parliament later this year. He said Indian industry has come of age to finance its investment requirement from its own resources and small savings. He said a vital solution to the problems of unemployment and poverty can only be found through rapid increase of industrial production. Referring to decontrol, Mr. V.P. Singh said India is not a free enterprise economy and government therefore continues to play a key role in determining priorities for development. It intends to make a happy blend of flexibility in decisionmaking and encouragement to competition. He had a special word of praise for the export sector. He said the current growth rate is about 20 percent and he hoped that this performance will be strengthened further in the years ahead.

The meeting was followed by a question and answer session in which Mr. V.P. Singh ruled out any possibility of making the rupee a convertible currency in the immediate future. He said that the methodology to link to the basket of current currencies has worked well.

The prime minister said that the government would deal firmly with the challenge of secession being posed in Punjab and Kashmir. Answering questions at the end of the meeting, Mr. Singh said that the problem of secession in Punjab and Kashmir was being aided from across the border.

Indo-Soviet Economic Working Group Meets

BK1104095590 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The second meeting of the Indo-Soviet working group on identifying new areas of economic cooperation began in New Delhi today. The group will also review the progress made in promoting cooperation between the two countries and indentify areas for the transfer of technology. The Indian delegation is led by Mr. A.N. Varma, secretary Ministry of Industries, and the Soviet delegation is led by Mr. (I.E. Kudsiyanov), chief of the department of the Soviet Commission for Foreign Economic Relations.

In his opening remarks, Mr. A.N. Varma expressed happiness that business contacts between the enterprises of both countries have increased. The leader of the Soviet delegation, Mr. (I.E. Kudsiyanov) expressed the desire to further expand and strengthen economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Iran

Radio Notes Call for Attack on U.S. Facilities

LD1104223390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday one of the regime's Majles deputies from Mashhad, who belongs to the reactionaries, said: I call on all youth to attack U.S. sources, bases, and military and economic establishments throughout the world.

At the same time yesterday TEHRAN TIMES, which is published by sources from the regime's Foreign Ministry supporting the Hashemi-Rafsanjani front, once again announced that the regime wishes that the issue of the U.S. and European hostages in Lebanon be resolved.

Ambassador on Ties With Bulgarian Ministers

NC1204062690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Our ambassador to Bulgaria met with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov in Sofia yesterday and discussed the expansion of bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting, the Iranian ambassador expressed support for the recent developments in Bulgaria. He said the two countries' relations are expanding, and described this as being in the interests of the two countries and nations.

During this meeting, the Bulgarian foreign minister stated: We attach special significance to our friendly and long-lasting relations with Iran, and are striving to expand these relations. The current developments urge us to be more active in expanding our relations.

The Bulgarian foreign minister added: We support UN Security Council Resolution 598 and call for its implementation and, in turn, the establishment of stable peace in the area. We support the efforts by the UN secretary general or any initiative aimed at the implementation of this resolution.

He added: As for chemical weapons, we support a complete ban on the use of this terrible weapon, and we condemn any use of it.

The Bulgarian foreign minister also said: The visit by the UN secretary general's special envoy on human rights in Iran was very interesting to us, and we were happy with the report that he submitted. During the recent Human Rights Committee session, we condemned the U.S. aggression in Panama and the violation of human rights in Iraq.

Our ambassador also met with the Bulgarian agriculture minister and discussed the further expansion of Iranian-Bulgarian relations in agriculture, aimed at the interests of both countries, and added: The seventh session of the

joint [Iranian-Bulgarian] committee will play an important role in the expansion of relations.

The Bulgarian agriculture minister then spoke about 40 years of experience in agriculture. Emphasizing the significance of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he expressed his hope for the expansion of bilateral relations, especially in agriculture.

KAYHAN Examines Israel-Iraq Tensions

NC1104144990 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Butcher of Baghdad"]

[Text] "As one horror succeeds another, it is tempting to wonder whether there is anything Saddam Husayn could do which would spark something more punitive than passing spasms of indignation; or whether Iraq's oil wealth, its potential as an export market, and its value as a counterweight to Iran guarantee it a benighted form of immunity. It is possible that the discovery yesterday at Heathrow of nuclear triggers, probably American-made, will arouse sufficient alarm to shake the world from its tendency to indulge the Butcher of Baghdad, as he has been well named."

The above quoted paragraph is from an editorial printed in the London-based daily, the INDEPENDENT of March 29. The views expressed by the British newspaper about the Iraqi dictator are nowadays found in almost all Western media, more or less, in the same way.

Apparently this change in tone took place after Farzad Bazoft, a journalist working for the British daily, OBSERVER, was hanged in Baghdad after being convicted as an Israeli and British spy by a so-called Iraqi revolutionary court.

Taking into consideration such harsh and unfriendly opinion expressed by the West on Saddam and the rhetorics now exchanged between Baghdad and Tel Aviv it can be easily concluded that Bazoft's execution in Baghdad on charges of spying for Israel and Britain was just a prelude to another farce. An attempt is being made to display a deep enmity between the Zionist regime in the occupied Palestine and the Ba'athist regime in Iraq.

"I swear to God we will let our fire eat half of Israel if it tries to wage anything against Iraq", declared Saddam on Monday in a nationwide broadcast.

On Tuesday tens of thousands of Iraqis, thronged Baghdad in support of Saddam's threat to bombard Israel with chemical weapons if the Zionist state attacked Iraq.

Similar sentiments were expressed by some officials in Israel. Micha'el Dekel, an aide to Yitzhaq Shamir, the prime minister of Israel, and former deputy defense minister, said Tuesday he urged the prime minister to quickly order distribution of gas masks now in warehouses.

The former deputy defense minister of the Zionist state must be either a person with a short memory or a fool to have uttered those words and shown his anxiety over the issue. Does Dekel want the world to believe that Sadam's threats are serious? Dekel should be reminded that Baghdad showed no reaction when in June 1981 Israel's airforce destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad. Moreover, he should be also told that never in past the Iraqi Ba'athist troops have fired a single bullet towards Israel.

But the new campaign if aimed at threatening the reactionary Arab heads of state and making them pay more petro-dollars to Saddam, it should be said that this farce is not needed. They will do so if ordered by Washington. And if it is intended to bring home to the Iranians that Iraq already in possession of fatal chemical weapons is now aspiring to have, or perhaps actually producing, nuclear weapons, it should be said that such tactics have lost their effects. At least the revolutionary nation in Iran pays no heed to such childish pranks.

We know it that Iraq's nuclear energy site was totally devastated by the Israeli bombers in 1981. Of course that action at that time was thought to be necessary. The U.S. having lost hopes about Saddam's ability to survive the war he had started against Iran decided to annihilate the atomic energy facilities at Baghdad.

Nevertheless, those facilities are not yet reconstructed. Moreover, Iraq's support to Michel 'Awn established the truth that Saddam is nothing more than a stooge of the West. Israel need not be afraid of him.

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial on Peace Talks

NC1104141790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Compelling Saddam To Resolve Impasse on Peace Talks"]

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday expounded the new plan of the United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning the Security Council Resolution 598.

Dr. Velayati referred to a statement of President Hashemi Rafsanjani in which he declared the Islamic Republic's acceptance of the secretary general's new plan, and said this response was officially sent by the Foreign Ministry last week to the United Nations.

Dr. Velayati said from the Iranian side there are two basic points. First of all, Perez de Cuellar should explain some of his viewpoints more clearly. For instance the method of implementation of the various articles of the resolution. Will one article have to be fully implemented before going on the next one? And in case one of the sides creates problems, will Perez de Cuellar execute the role that has been given to him by the Security Council? What we mean is whether he will respect the time limits for the individual articles of the peace resolution?

Another point concerns the time-table for withdrawal of troops. At the very start of implementation of the ceasefire, Perez de Cuellar presented the time-table, which was accepted by the Islamic Republic. But the Iraqi regime has so far not given a specific response on this point.

What is certain in that the Iraqi regime could never continue its resistance against the self-sacrificing Muslim forces of Iran without the support of super and big powers. If it were not for the U.S.-made AWACS and the flood of Western military and material aid to the Iraqi regime, this regime would certainly have faced a severe defeat at the very beginning of its aggression against the Islamic Revolution.

The head of the Baghdad regime, Saddam himself admitted in a speech that the U.S. and Britain are constantly trying to equip his regime with nuclear weapons. He has also confessed to possessing binary chemical weapons. The world also knows that these weapons were used in the bombardment of Halabja and Kurdish regions.

Now, the international community has come to realize with every passing day Saddam's war-mongering and sick nature and behavior. If the great world powers continue their aid and support for Saddam nobody can hope for a solution to the crisis of the region. They should not only end their aid to the brutal regime of Saddam but should instead apply increasing political and economic pressures through the international community against Iraq to force it to accept and respect the views of the world community. This means exact implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 and pressurizing Saddam to force him to abandon his excuses and other tactics contrary to the resolution.

Editorial Views Palestinian Uprising

NC1204064690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Ramadan: Palestine Islamic Movement Gains Momentum"]

[Text] As the Muslim world entered the holy and blessed month of Ramadan last week, the Islamic and popular forces in Palestine issued statements calling on the suffering people of the occupied territory to intensify their justice-seeking struggle against the Zionist regime.

In response to the call made by Hizballah and the Palestine Islamic Jihad Organization, on the first day of Ramadan, the entire land of occupied Palestine witnessed the escalation of the Islamic uprising of Muslims.

Reports reaching us from Bayt al-Maqdis, Nabulus, Ramallah, the Gaza Strip and several other regions, indicated that extensive demonstrations have been held and clashes occurred between the Palestinian revolutionaries and the Zionist occupiers. These clashes and demonstrations which have taken place without consultations with the Palestinian guerrilla organizations and with a completely Islamic nature have badly frightened the Zionists due to the sensitivity of the present situation.

The new wave of anti-Israeli demonstrations and clashes are taking place under circumstances that the Muslim people of Palestine are preparing to mark the ceremonies of the Universal Day of Quds (the last Friday of Ramadan) in the occupied territories. For this reason the Zionists fear the blessed month of Ramadan to the extent that each year in this month, Israeli patrols are put on the alert in the main streets and squares of big cities in the occupied Palestine to counter the people's Islamic uprising.

During the two and a half years since the escalation of the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation against the usurper Zionists, the month of Ramadan has always been an important religious motive in strengthening the Islamic movement of Palestine. For this reason, the Zionists are preparing to counter the new move by the Palestinians, particularly on the eve of the anniversary of the Universal Day of Quds. Among the measures they have been taking are the creation of check-points in major cities as well as increasing the number of their patrol units and forces in these cities.

The Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people was shaped under conditions that compromisers and reactionaries treacherous to Islam intended at the Amman Conference two years ago, to overlook the main enemy, i.e., Israel and instead magnify the imaginary danger of the Islamic Revolution.

Today Islam is the vanguard of the struggle against Zionism in the Palestinian scene and both friends and foes acknowledge that the heroic Palestinians have entered the field of struggle against the Zionist regime with strong Islamic motives. This sacred move should continue until the Palestinian land is purged of the filthy existence of the Israeli usurpers at the hands of the brave forces of Islam.

The Muslim nations in the Middle East, too, regard the ominous and imposed phenomenon of Zionism their main enemy and in confronting this evil enemy, they take the lead from the Islamic revolution and the method of struggle from the heroic people of Islamic Iran.

Therefore the Zionists should have hard days ahead during Ramadan. The Palestine Islamic movement has infused fresh hopes in the hearts of the oppressed people of Palestine and the secret for the success of this movement lies in safeguarding its prominent Islamic characteristics.

Commentary Views Kurdish Problem in Turkey

NC1204084190 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Intensified Military Operations Against Kurds in Turkey"]

[Text] In a statement on Turkish radio and television's second channel, President Ozal recalled the latest decisions adopted by the Turkish Government as part of the new program to deal with the insurgent Kurds in a number of provinces in Turkey and noted that the Turkish armed forces intend to use modern military equipment to crush the opposition Kurds. Turkish political party leaders discussed this at a meeting last week. All the parties upheld the government's military initiatives in the Kurdish regions.

The opposition parties in Turkey are exploiting the economic poverty in the provinces where the Kurds live. These provinces are the poorest and the most destitute regions in the country. This state of affairs has caused armed clashes between the opposition Kurds and the Turkish armed forces for a long time. More than 4,000 government troops and insurgent Kurds have been killed since the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] intensified its armed struggle in 1984. Armed clashes between the Kurdish guerrillas and the armed forces are continuing.

Regardless of the various tactics the Turkish Government has employed to crush the armed Kurdish groups, Turkey's goals have not yet been achieved. In other words, the Turkish Government's effort to resolve this internal problem is at an impasse.

According to the political observers, using the Army when Turkey's economy is not in a good condition has increased the burden of the funds allocated for the Armed Forces in the Kurdish regions. Meanwhile, the armed clashes have become more widespread than before. [passage indistinct]

Both the Armed Forces and the Kurdish guerrillas are finding it difficult to maintain their struggle. The PKK leader's recent disclosure in HURRIYET newspaper is an example. He said he was ready to agree to a cease-fire and to hold talks on the problem. [passage indistinct]

It seems that the fruitless initiatives the two sides made during the past six years must have made them realize that the best thing is to resolve their problem through negotiations and mutual respect, instead of resorting to military force. What is definite is that the sides must officially recognize the human rights of each and every individual in the country and must help each other with their own resources.

Commentary on International Anti-Drug Plan

LD1104141190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The international conference on narcotics will end its work in London today. This conference has studied methods of international cooperation and joint combat by world governments. The international narcotics trade brings hefty profits for international smugglers, and every year the world governments allocate a large budget to the anti-narcotics struggle. [passage omitted] The statistics show that the global situation of drug trafficking is quite depressing. According to a UN report, the volume of international trade in narcotics amounts to $500 billion per year. That means nine percent of the world's entire trade is in the hands of international drug trafficking gangs. The annual figure of the United States alone is $110 billion dollars.

No doubt such a volume of international trade requires cooperation from the CIA and other such notorious organizations at the Mafia. Every year the press publishes reports on the involvement of these organizations in global narcotics issues and the astronomical bribes given to European and U.S. officials. On this basis, the international community should compile a new plan in order to confront those countries, which despite their sensational propaganda, closely cooperate with the narcotics trade; or they should be compelled by various means to abide by UN regulations. For example, by the year 1988, some 106 countries had signed a UN charter which considers the narcotics trade an illegal act.

It is, however, interesting to realize that most of the drug trafficking has repeatedly taken place via the territory of the same countries that have signed the charter, without any serious attempt by their governments to stop them.

The international community, in particular conscientious people, are therefore dutybound to bring the governments and their nations to their senses to implement the anti-narcotics plan. It is up to them to apply pressure on true world narcotics gang leaders for the sake of mankind's future.

Deputies Urge Saudis Not To Hamper Pilgrimage

LD1104115790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In today's open session of the Majles a letter signed by more than 140 Majles deputies about the arrival of the pilgrimage season was read. The letter states: Pilgrimage to the sacred house and visits to the house of God is the absolute right of all world Muslims, and a divine necessity, and no one has the right to prevent it and put obstacles in the path of God. The letter urges Muslim clergy and world Muslims to put pressure on the Saudi regime to remove the obstacles posed on the way of the Muslim nation of Iran to the house of God. The Majles deputies enlisted the points to which the Saudi Regime must pay attention in that regard.

One of those points is that the Saudi regime must admit its crimes in massacring the oppressed pilgrims of Iran, express its apologies, and also pay compensation for the blood of the oppressed Muslim martyrs, blood that was unjustly shed, and then return the property that it plundered from the convoys of Iranian pilgrims.

Another point mentioned in the letter of the Majles deputies is that the number of Iranian pilgrims must remain the same

as the last time Iranian pilgrims went to mecca, that is 150,000 as in 1366 [March 1987 to March 1988]. Further, the Saudi regime should leave the pilgrims free to carry out the true ceremonies of the pilgrimage and the disavowal of infidels, according to the decree of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified.

Resumption of Links With Kuwait Discussed

LD1104123890 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 11, IRNA—The resumption of shipping and flights of airliners between Iran and Kuwait was discussed by Iranian ambassaador here Hoseyn Sadeqi and Kuwaiti Minister of State for Services Affairs Isa Muhammad al-Mazidi, Wednesday. They agreed that air and ship traffic should immediately resume between the two countries' cities and ports.

The upward trend of Tehran-Kuwait relations was other topics discussed by the two. The tiny Persian Gulf state was a wartime ally of the Iraqi regime during the 8-year long aggression against the Islamic Republic.

*RESALAT Report on 15 Mar 90 Majles Session

90AS0019A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Thursday morning and afternoon of last week the Majles met in public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, the Majles went into its agenda to continue dealing with the details of the National Budget Bill for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

RESALAT's Parliamentary correspondent reports that during this meeting consideration was given to proposed amendments and additions from various commissions and deputies concerning notes four through nine of this bill, and were approved by the deputies in the following form:

Note Four

A - The government is authorized, when necessary, to take repayments on interest-free loans and other of the nation's banking system resources and make these funds available through the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Agriculture Bank, which will in turn make the funds available as unused capital to fishermen, members, and companies in rural, agricultural, fishing, and tribal cooperatives and to jointly-held and farmer cooperatives, for the purpose of advancing the goals for the agriculture and rural industry sectors given in the Islamic Republic of Iran's first Five-Year Plan to increase sector production, and, in accordance with the provisions of this note, up to 150 billion rials may by taken from interest-free loan sources and when this is not sufficient another 100 billion rials may be guaranteed from other banking system resources, and any unpaid funds may be absorbed by the national budget the following year.

The aforementioned guarantee does not absolve the banks from the responsibility of collecting unpaid funds resulting from granting loans of this kind. Those who use the credit facilities provided in this note must pay monies owed to the bank, and failure to repay the debt constitutes illegal use of government funds and assets.

A maximum of 35 billion rials of the credit in this note will be used to procure and prepare cleaned seeds and sperm for the Ministry of Construction Jihad and the Ministry of Agriculture.

B - A maximum of 10 percent of the credit in this note will be used to procure and prepare the materials needed for carpet factories, 3 percent of which will go to the Iranian Carpet Corporation and 7 percent to the carpet cooperatives under the mantle of the Construction Jihad, to provide the materials needed to carpet weavers.

The executive guidelines, to include the amount of each loan, the manner and rules for granting these loans, and the portions allocated to the relevant sectors and organizations, will be prepared by the Ministry of Construction Jihad, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Bank, and the Plan and Budget Organization and will be approved by the Council of Ministers within two months of the enactment of this law.

Note Five

A - The Consumer and Producer Protection Organization must deposit five percent of the revenues obtained from the excess funds mentioned in Paragraph 10 Article Seven of its charter to the account for general national revenues. Excess funds collected by the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization do not include income taxes. If an organization for any reason withholds or delays payment of the excess, the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization must notify the Plan and Budget Organization of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and after investigation the funds will be taken from the account of the organization and credited to the surplus funds account.

B - Organizations that obtain funds from the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization out of the excess funds revenues mentioned in Paragraph 10 Article Seven of the charter of that organization must return the unused and uncommitted funds obtained no later than the end of Farvardin 1370 [20 April 1991] to the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization.

C - Any delay in the payment of the funds mentioned and depositing the excess funds constitutes illegal use of public funds and violators will be dealt with according to law.

D - The Consumer and Producer Protection Organization must announce the amounts paid to each organization along with the amounts spent and returned according to year by the end of Khordad 1370 [21 June 1991] to the Majles Plan and Budget Commission through the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

Note Six

A - Authorization is given: (1) to allocate two billion rials of the fixed capital credit provided in row 503,002 (Unanticipated Development Costs) of Section Four of this law to specific projects for carrying out necessary development projects and for development activities in the deprived districts based on the report from the Plan and Budget Organization concerning deprived areas as recommended by the appropriate ministers, confirmed by the Plan and Budget Organization, and approved by the Council of Ministers, and the money can be spent after exchanging the agreement in principle with the Plan and Budget Organization.

At least 70 percent of the credit in this paragraph must be spent in the rural and tribal areas.

(2) to divide as needed among the nation's provinces eight billion rials of the credit mentioned in paragraph (1) of this note for unanticipated miscellaneous development costs needed by the provinces and rural and tribal area development projects as recommended by the appropriate ministers and confirmed by the Plan and Budget Organization. The share of each province will be allocated to specific projects as recommended by the governor-general and approved by the province planning committee.

(3) It is prohibited to make any kind of commitment for subsequent years or to start projects with more than 100 million rials credit from the credits provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this note.

(4) Authorization is given to spend 27 billion rials of the rest of the credit provided in row 503,002 (Unanticipated Development Costs) of Section Four of this law to rebuild various parts of the country that have been or will be damaged by unexpected factors such as floods, earthquakes, drought, and fire, as well as for the costs of preventing such events.

This credit will be divided among damaged provinces as approved by the Council of Ministers and will be allocated to specific projects as approved by the province planning committee.

(5) The amount of 300 million rials of the credit provided in row 503,002 (Unanticipated Development Costs) of Section Four of this law will be allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture to provide for future activities of the Land Assignment Council.

(6) Three billion rials are provided to the Construction Jihad to build hygienic public bathhouses in the nation's rural areas.

(7) The amount of 11 billion rials from the credit provided in row 503,002 (Unanticipated Development Costs) of Section Four of this law will be allocated for necessary development activities in the deprived districts to be spent on specific projects according to a set of guidelines to be prepared by the President's Deprived Areas Affairs Office and approved by the Council of Ministers within one month of this law's enactment.

The President's Deprived Areas Affairs Office must prepare a report every four months on the work done under this paragraph to be given to the Plan and Budget Commission, the Majles, and the deputies from the relevant deprived areas.

(8) Within no more than eight months, the government must identify the deprived villages located in the non-deprived districts and secure approval. The deprived villages mentioned in this paragraph may utilize the credits for the deprived districts.

B-

(1) One billion rials of the credit provided in row 503,001 (Unanticipated Development Costs) of Section Four of this law will be made available to the Ministry of the Interior for necessary province expenses.

(2) The credits provided in row 503,135 of Section Four of this law are allocated to meet the costs of free people, to be allocated as needed by the Plan and Budget Organization to the relevant executive organizations.

(3) The amount of 750 million rials of the credit provided in row 503,001 will be allocated to the Tribal Affairs Organization for distribution among the province Tribal Affairs Organization offices as approved by the Plan and Budget Organization.

(4) The sum of 5.6 billion rials from the credit provided in row 503,001 of Part Four of this law will be allocated to meet credit shortfalls for the nation's higher education organizations and institutions as recommended by the appropriate ministers and confirmed by the Plan and Budget Organization, and will be added to the current credit ceilings for higher education organizations and institutions.

(5) The sum of 480 million rials will be given to the Majles to meet the costs of representation in the electoral districts, with the exception of the Tehran deputies.

C - The Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of the Interior are required to submit a report on the work done under this note every four months to the Majles Accounts Office, and the Plan and Budget and Domestic Affairs commissions. Likewise the governors-general must submit to the provinces and the appropriate deputies a report every four months of credits provided in the implementation of this note.

Note Seven- The Ports and Shipping Organization is authorized to procure the 6.7892 billion rials of the revenue deficit of 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]

incurred implementing Note 12 of the Budget Law for that year, after a legal audit, from its legal reserves, and to apply the relevant documents to its fixed expenses, and to send a copy of the aforementioned audit to the Plan and Budget Commission, the Commission on Economic Affairs and Finance, and the Accounting Court.

Note Eight-

The Ministry of Education and Training is authorized to distribute and pay out its credits for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] per-pupil costs of its educational units at headquarters and in the provinces, on the basis of the law on "per-pupil costs of educational units attached to the Ministry of Education and Training" enacted 10/21/1360 [11 January 1982] and to apply them to its fixed costs. It will not be authorized to include personnel costs with the per-pupil costs of the above units.

Note Nine-

The rial credits in row 503,041 and the foreign exchange credits in Tables One and Two in Part Nine of this law may be allocated to strengthening the defense, security, and intelligence base with approval by the appropriate executive organizations based on the recommendation of the Plan and Budget Organization and with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

A - Within a month of this bill's enactment, the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces will announce to the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics the method of distributing credits among military forces arranged by the categories in the table in Part Two of this law so the necessary steps can be taken.

B - Military and police armed forces must procure the munitions and equipment they need from the Defense Industries Organization and to buy from abroad only the military equipment that cannot be produced domestically, exclusively through the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

C - A report on the manner of spending the credits for the purchase of the chief defense items under this note must be prepared by the accountant chosen by a council consisting of the following members, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, and submitted to the council: (a) a member of the Majles Defense Commission chosen by the commission (b) a member of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission chosen by the commission (c) a member of the Majles Accounting Court Commission chosen by the commission (d) the chief of the National Accounting Court or his representative (e) a representative of the minister of defense and armed forces logistics (f) a representative of the president's plan and budget assistant. The representatives mentioned in items (d), (e), and (f) must be chosen by the aides of the aforementioned officials. The chief of the council will be the representative of the minister of defense and armed forces logistics and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics will be responsible for maintaining the council's secretariat. This council will be required to meet at least once a month and its meetings must be attended by at least two-thirds of its members. The above council will submit the results of its studies and reports to the Great Leader and the president of the republic. Management of this council will not be among the responsibilities and duties of the Accounting Court.

D - Note 45 of the Budget Law for 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] and Note 47 of the Budget Law for 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] and other laws and regulations at variance with the provisions of this note are voided.

E - The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Intelligence are required to submit a report on the work done under this note every three months through the Plan and Budget Organization to the Majles Defense Commission and Plan and Budget Commission.

F - Four billion rials from the credits in row five of the Current Expenses Table row 503,041 are allocated for current expenses of the Ministry of Construction Jihad's War and Fronts Support Staff and 1.43 billion rials of the credits in row 10 of the Current Expenses Table row 503,041 are allocated for the current expenses of the Construction Jihad Combat Engineering Research Center, and the funds can be used after exchanging the agreement in principle with the Plan and Budget Organization.

G - Foreign purchase of major defense items will be supervised by a council composed of the following members, within the limits of approved credits:

1 - A representative of the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces.

2 - A representative of the Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3 - The chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

4 - A representative of the minister of defense and armed forces logistics.

5 - A representative of the president of the republic.

Two representatives of the Majles plan and budget and defense commissions chosen by the Majles, one representative of the Foreign Ministry, and one representative of the Ministry of Intelligence will meet with this council as observers.

The council mentioned in this paragraph is not authorized to confirm significant foreign purchases within the country.

Likewise, the opening of paper credits for the above purchases by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of

Iran and the nation's other banks is prohibited prior to confirmation from the council mentioned in this paragraph.

H - Credits in row nine of the table in Section 10 are allocated for payment of armed forces indebtedness to the ministries and government organizations, which will be paid to the appropriate organizations upon presentation of documents validated by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics. Credits transferred from this row may be spent by the organization receiving the credit solely for the purpose of carrying out development projects to advance the goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first Five-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural advancement.

I - The financial resources needed to complete and build sites for missiles, radar, docks, ports, and factories to build air, naval, armor, munitions, and missile equipment as provided in the plan will be procured from the credits mentioned in this note.

J - The discretion and responsibilities given in Article 53 of the National Public Accounting Law (designation, fulfilling obligation, confirmation, and transfer) in rows 111,200 and 111,300 provided in Part Four of this law are the responsibility respectively of the chief of the Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Accounting affairs for the aforementioned rows will be handled by the accountant (mentioned in Article 31 of the National Accounting Law) from the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, under the supervision of the minister of defense and armed forces logistics.

In carrying out the lawful responsibilities of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, accounting agents will be appointed and approved in all the units affiliated with the army and the revolutionary guard by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics under Article 36 of the National Public Accounting Law, and they will be a part of the administrative chain of this ministry.

Pakistan

Indian Threats Termed 'Extremely Regrettable'

BK1104153590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan has expressed distress and sorrow over another war threat from the Indian leadership. When asked to comment on the Indian prime minister's statement in the Lok Sabha yesterday, a foreign office spokesman said it is extremely regrettable.

Peaceful settlements on the Kashmir issue are being stressed in the statements of Pakistani leaders, whereas a warmonger reaction is being expressed by the Indian Government. This can only enhance tension between the two countries. This also creates apprehensions in this part of the world, which is inhabited by one-fifth of the world's population.

Reaction to Singh 'Threat'

BK1104164390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1638 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 11 (AFP)—Pakistan Wednesday described a comment made by Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh as a "threat of war" and said the buildup of Indian troops along the international border was "most serious."

A Foreign Office statement said it was "unfortunate" that Pakistani statements urging a peaceful solution to the Kashmiri problem had brought such "bellicose responses from the Government of India."

Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg in a statement earlier in the day disclosed that an Indian strike force was concentrated in Suratgarh and Bikaner within some 80 kilometres (50 miles) of the border in an act of military intimidation. The Indian move is "most threatening and Pakistan Army has to take suitable measures to counter it," he said, referring to ongoing war games close to the border.

Defence Ministry sources said the Indian military exercises were to end in March but troops have not yet been called off, increasing suspicions between the two rival neighbours who have fought three wars in 42 years. Two of the conflicts were mainly over Moslem-dominated Kashmir, which is claimed by both sides.

Mr. V.P. Singh in a speech to the Indian Parliament Tuesday blamed Pakistan for allegedly encouraging insurgency in India and warned that Islamabad would have to pay a "very heavy" price. The Indian premier also called on his countrymen to be "psychologically prepared" for a war with Pakistan, threatening also that New Delhi would have to review its "nuclear options."

The spokesman here said these statements "could only add to the tension between the two countries and thus cause deep aprehension in a region of the world where one-fifth of mankind lives." He said recent Indian statements, including Mr. Singh's latest assertion, were "an index of the mounting desperation of the Indian Government in dealing with the situation in the Indian-held Kashmir."

Mr. Singh's statement also received a strong reaction from Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg who described his warning as "really serious" and called for a "high state of preparedness" in Pakistan.

The Foreign Office spokesman said "the Indian Government had been further unnerved by disclosures made by Indian journalists and other men of conscience in India of terrible atrocities commited by the Indian security forces in Kashmir." India accuses Pakistan of fuelling the current separatist campaign in Moslem-dominated

Kashmir, while Pakistan is calling for India to respect the "right of self-determination" in the Himalayan valley.

A Defence Ministry spokesman, however, stressed that Pakistan has not put its forces on alert. Asked if Pakistan would react to the Indian troops' concentration, he said, "we don't have to deploy forces as our regular troops are camped close to the borders manned by militia." "It is not necessary at this moment," to make special measures, he said stressing that "there is no special activity on our side."

The two countries have recently developed a system of communication in which top commanders can establish "hot-line contact" to avert a collision.

Minister Criticizes Singh

BK1104163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Federal Interior Minister Chowdhury Aitzaz Ahsan has reaffirmed that Pakistan has not extended any military or material support to the Kashmiri liberation movement. In an interview with BBC, he said whatever the Kashmiris were doing in occupied Kashmir at the moment, they were doing on their own. [passage omitted]

On Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh's statement to Parliament, Aitzaz Ahsan said he is making statements such as this because his policies have proved futile. He said that despite all this, our message to the Indian Government and people is that of peace.

Kashmir Stand Reiterated

BK1104113590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The federal interior minister, Chowdhury Aitzaz Ahsan, has reaffirmed that Pakistan has not extended any military or material support to the Kashmir liberation movement. In an interview with the BBC, he said whatever the Kashmiris were doing in the held Kashmir at the moment, they were doing on their own. He said Pakistan's stand on Kashmir issue is absolutely clear and it supports Kashmiris right of self-determination. It is Pakistan's basic policy objective and it could not abandon it. The interior minister said the Kashmir issue should be peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Simla agreement.

Army Examines War Threat

BK1104142190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Today a conference of Army Corps commanders continued for the second straight day in Rawalpindi. At the conference, a consensus was reached that Pakistan cannot ignore the threats of war from across the border and every arrangement for the country's security should be made. The conference made a detailed review of the threat. The conference also discussed the amassing of troops across the borders, the deteriorating situation in the occupied Kashmir, and the existing law and order situation in the country, especially in Sind.

Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg, who presided over the conference, said the threatening statements from across the borders are truly alarming and they warrant full preparedness to foil the enemy's designs.

Calls For 'Preparedness'

BK1104165090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The corps commanders conference continued for the second day in Rawalpindi today. It was of the consensus that Pakistan cannot remain complacent in view of the threat of war from across the border, and that all measures be taken to defend the country. The chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, who presided, said threatening statements from across the border are really serious and call for a high state of preparedness and vigilance to frustrate the designs of the enemy. He referred to the concentration of troops across the borders as an act of military intimidation, which is heightening tension. He said deployment of the Indian strike corps between [name indistinct] and Bikaner, just within 70 to 80 km of the border, is most threatening and Pakistan Army has to take suitable measures to counter it.

Gen. Beg pointed out that it was India which was heightening tension by taking coercive actions in occupied Kashmir. The people of Kashmir were fighting for their right of self-determination and they should know that ballot could be the best answer to the issue rather than the use of bullet.

Reviewing the internal situation, he said it was imperative upon all to strive for strengthening democracy by forging unity and national harmony. The chief of the Army staff said while the country is faced with a serious threat from across the border, the political climate inside the country is very depressing indeed. Political rivalries, manipulations and center-provinces rifts continued unabated; they are cutting at the very roots of the democratic process. Such a situation could hardly be helpful to lending united support to the armed forces in facing the imminent challenge. He said happenings in Sind represented a crisis situation. It was the duty of the political leadership to create harmony among the people by resolving the issue through political means, political dialogue, negotiations and talks which are the basic ingredients of a democratic government to solve such disputes.

Khan and Bhutto Hold 'Crisis' Meeting on Sindh

BK1204090890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Karachi, April 12 (AFP)—Pakistan's prime minister and president held a crisis overnight meeting in Islamabad over the worsening situation in Sindh as the

opposition backed the demands of a hunger-striking political leader in the southern province.

The meeting between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan took place as the president came under attack from opposition MP's [members of Parliament] for failing to use his constitutional powers to defuse the current crisis in Sindh.

The situation in Sindh worsened after doctors announced the death Wednesday of a ruling party youth leader from bullet wounds sustained in an ambush Friday, allegedly mounted by activists of the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) which represents Urdu-speaking settlers from India. Najib Ahmed, 26, a former president of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) youth wing, died after five days in a coma. Three other leaders of the People's Student Federation (PSF) also received bullet injuries in the attack.

Soon after Mr. Ahmed's burial in Karachi late Wednesday, attended by thousands of supporters, the PSF said it would observe Friday as a "black day" to protest his killing, followed by a seven-day mourning period with youths wearing black arm bands.

Several kilometers (miles) from the graveyard, MQM leader Hussain Altaf continued a hunger strike Thursday aimed at forcing the government to release several MQM activists, including one senior leader, Khalid Bin Walid, jailed for alleged involvement in Friday's clash, party sources said. Doctors said Mr. Hussain's condition had deteriorated and signs of weakness had begun to appear in his face, after the 36-year-old leader turned down repeated requests from opposition leaders to end his fast. He has released a list of 71 MQM members allegedly victimized by "PPP-sponsored terrorism" during a general strike in Karachi called by Mr. Hussain February 7.

The Sindh government has refused to give in to Mr. Hussain's demands, with Islamabad's Senior Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto saying that "murderers would not be freed."

The Bhutto-Ishaq Khan meeting was seen as important amid a continued stalemate in Sindh, on the brink of a new wave of violence between warring ethnic and political factions.

The meeting followed a warning by Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg that Pakistan's leaders should resolve their differences through dialogue. Gen. Beg told a meeting of corps commanders in Rawalpindi on Wednesday that Pakistan's political climate was "very depressing" and that a "crisis situation was not conducive to the national security, particularly in view of very serious war threats from neighbouring India." "Political rivalries, manipulations and... rifts continue unabated and striking the very roots of the democratic process," he told the military top brass.

Meanwhile tanks and armored personnel carriers on Wednesday filled the streets of Karachi, where troops have played a major role in defusing troubles since the Bhutto government came to power, observers said.

A statement by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said both the president and prime minister "believed that the (PPP-controlled) Sindh government must continue efforts to defuse the situation by seeking a political solution through dialogue without compromising the position of the government." It said the "proper forum for adjudicating guilt or innocence are the courts of law," adding the two leaders agreed that "criminals must not be let off."

Message Sent on Student's Death

BK1104171690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] In a condolence message to the mother of the deceased, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, expressed deep shock and grief on the tragic death of Najib Ahmed, who became an unfortunate victim of violence. The prime minister said that he was a devoted student leader who was sympathetic to the cause of democracy and welfare of the student community, and who will be long remembered. Ms. Benazir Bhutto also appealed to all student leaders and student organization workers to keep their sentiments and emotions under control and let the law take its course. She urged them to maintain discipline in their ranks and not become the tools of opportunist and exploitationist forces.

In Karachi, a delegation of senior Muhajir leaders comprising a former governor of Sind, Justice Qadruddin; a senior government official, retired Nusrat Hussain; and others called on Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] leader, Altaf Hussain, who is on a hunger strike. The delegation brought a message from the Sind government that its doors are open for negotiations. The MQM conveyed to the Sind government through those distinguished citizens that if any negotiations are to be held, they should be held at the residence of Altaf Hussain in Azizabad. The MQM also demanded that those arrested on 26 March be granted a general amnesty. It is understood that the Sind government has stated that the doors of the governor and chief ministers are open for negotiations. However, if the MQM does not utilize the opportunity for negotiations, the responsibility for the consequences of Altaf Hussain's hunger strike will rest on it. The government believes that there is no immediate danger to Altaf Hussain's life.

According to reports, the situation in Karachi is tense, but under control. The local administration has taken steps to prevent any unpleasant incidents. Law enforcement agencies are patrolling sensitive areas and armored cars have been deployed at vital locations.

PPP Leader Hunger Strikes

BK1204105390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Rashed Hussain Rabbani, president of the Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] Karachi division, has started a hunger strike until death to press his demand for the arrest of the killers of People's Students Federation leader Najib Ahmed. In support of Rabbani's demand, six PPP workers have also joined the hunger strike.

Bhutto Stresses Promotion of Ties With Iran

LD1104152190 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto discussed expansion of Tehran-Islamabad political and economic ties with the Iranian Ambassador Javad Mansuri today.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is of special significance among neighboring countries, and we attach great importance to expansion and deepening of our (mutual) ties," the Pakistani premier said in the meeting.

Ms. Bhutto referring to bilateral trade exchanges between the two countries, expressed hope that the volume would go beyond the annual $200 million.

She also stressed Tehran-Islamabad cooperation on the side of the oppressed people of Afghanistan, to help them determine a government of their choice.

Mansuri in reply reiterated further promotion of ties with Pakistan. He hoped that the next joint economic commission meet which is to be held in Islammabad after the holy month of Ramadhan, would review ways for expansion of mutual economic and trade ties.

Yugoslav Minister, President Discuss Relations

BK1204041390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The Yugoslav minister for economic relations with foreign countries, Mr. Franc Horvat, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. During the meeting, he expressed his government's desire to further promote relations with Pakistan, particularly in the economic field. The president assured that Pakistan was equally keen on further expansion of economic cooperation with Yugoslavia, particularly through increased trade and joint ventures.

Mr. Franc Horvat also called on the adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs and national security, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, and handed over a letter of the president of the Yugoslav Federal Republic Council, Mr. Ante Markovic, for the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Rice Listed as Country's Biggest Export Item

BK0904101290 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Rice continues to be the biggest foreign exchange earner for the country in spite of tough competition in international market. A report issued by the Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan says Pakistan earned $302 million from the export of rice last year and the target fixed for the current financial year is $400 million. The report says this target is being met through aggressive marketing, introduction of new varieties of rice, and appointment of sale agents in major markets.